



Meow

The Award-Winning Newsletter of the Cat Writers' Association ♦ Winter 2009

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

HEARTFELT THANKS TO EACH OF YOU!!

By Nancy Peterson, Immediate-Past CWA President

Thanks to all our volunteers, sponsors, presenters, door prize donors, and attendees for a fantastic conference. For those of you who missed our conference, I hope my comments will help you vicariously enjoy it and decide to make plans to attend next year!!

Nineteen attendees were part of the Thursday Night Team. It was great to meet so many new members. We quickly put together conference folders and made 84 door prize bags. I served as the door prize coordinator and am grateful to all the companies that contributed to our stash. Although everyone enjoyed the TNT friendship circle, it was especially appreciated by the first-time attendees, who will henceforth be known as conference "kittens" thanks to Janet Velenovsky. After completing our chores, we rearranged the chairs and three 8-foot long tables and enjoyed a yummy dinner. Stephanie Galindo was a big fan of the ice cream.



This year's seminar lineup was terrific, thanks to Audrey Pavia, our presenters, and our co-sponsor, the Dog Writers Association of America. We had two 50-minute seminars each hour on Friday, except for the first and last seminars. That allowed all of us to be together for announcements at the start and end of the day as well as to award the Comfort Zone® with Feliway® Membership Bounty prize and the Premier Pet Products Scholarship award. Editor and agent appointments took place on Friday, and I believe several articles and book ideas were born during those meetings. Yahoo! Thanks to our editor/agent liaison, Ramona Marek, and our editor/agent appointment coordinator, Heike Hagenguth. Can you believe that Heike lives in Egypt and still finds a way to volunteer for the Cat Writers' Association?

After our Friday evening networking reception sponsored by Iams, our Friday night dinner speaker, Melinda Merck, DVM, shared her veterinary forensics experience and expertise with us. Our dinner was co-sponsored by *Cat Fancy Magazine*/Bowtie Inc., Central Life Sciences, and Morris Animal Foundation.

Saturday's panels were informative and stimulating and whetted our appetites for The Cat's Meow Luncheon sponsored by ASPCA. Attendees enjoyed a delicious meal, and several one-of-a-kind items were raffled. Dr. Merck brought the ASPCA mobile crime unit to the hotel so we could tour it after lunch. It's one-of-a-kind, too.

Cat Fanciers' Association sponsored our popular Saturday book signing event at its International Cat Show. Clea Simon did a great job lining up our book seller, The Book Basket, and 16 authors participated. Paws up to Contest Chair Arden Moore and Special Awards Coordinator Dusty Rainbolt for deftly managing this year's contest. There were a record 311 special award entries. Saturday night's reception was sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health. Its representative, Dan Kramer, did an amazing magic trick. I hope he'll do more next year. Our awards banquet was sponsored by Purina and there were many sparkles at the event.

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HEARTFELT THANKS (continued from page 1)

Sunday's membership breakfast, sponsored by Hartz Mountain Corporation, was scrumptious and more one-of-a-kind items were raffled. I told everyone to bring an extra suitcase! CWA members voted to have our 16th annual conference with the annual cat show of the Westchester Feline Club, a TICA-affiliated cat club. Our conference will take place November 19 to 22, 2009, in White Plains, New York – just a short train ride from Manhattan. Congratulations and appreciation to our newly elected officers who are already busy making plans for next year. I hope you are, too.

Additional volunteers who deserve our thanks are Lynette Cook, Awards Banquet Program Editor; Julie Ann Mock, Certificates Designer/Coordinator; Wendy Christensen, Conference Brochure Editor; Betsy Stowe, MEOW Editor/Conference Photographer; Barbara Moss, who sends MEOW to our sponsors; Fran Pennock Shaw (chair), Nancy Marano, and Marva Marrow, Nominations Committee; Debra White, Non-attending Authors Display and Writers' Guidelines and Information Coordinator; Lea-Ann Germinder, Public Relations Coordinator; Sharon Melnyk, Registrations Coordinator; Bobbi Florio Graham, Premier Pet Products Scholarship Prize Coordinator; Karen Lawrence, Web Site Designer/Editor; Sandra Toney, Writers' Web Sites Liaison; and Amy Shojai, who handles our Muse Medallions™ and CWA plaques. Thanks also to Sandy Robins, who answered my last-minute plea to distribute door prize bags and kept checking on me to see if I needed anything.

Please be sure to thank all the door prize, conference, and special award sponsors for their generosity to CWA. We couldn't have done it without them. Their contact information is included in this newsletter.

And lastly, if you want the real scoop on our conference, Sparkle's November diary includes a review of all the cool stuff that Janiss Garza brought home. Check out Sparkle's comments and photos at www.sparklecat.com/Diary/November2008. ♥



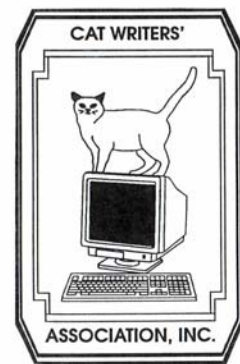
(L to R) Barbara Stretton, CWA President Amy Shojai, and Debra White

Photo by MIKE FRIESE

**Our Book Signing Extravaganza
at the CFA International Cat
Show was a big success.
BE THERE for the 2009 event
at the 34th Annual
Westchester Cat Show!**



ALL PHOTOS in this issue of *Meow*
are by Conference Photographer
Betsy Stowe unless otherwise noted.
Kudos!!



Cat Writers' Association

(www.catwriters.org)

Officers

AMY D. SHOJAI, President

Phone: 903-868-1022 * Fax: 903-893-1731

P.O. Box 1904, Sherman, TX 75091-1904

Email: amy@shojai.com

KIM THORNTON, Vice President

Phone: 949-454-1368 * Fax: 949-454-0134

22841 Orchid Creek Lane, Lake Forest, CA 92630

Email: kthornton@cox.net

WENDY CHRISTENSEN, Secretary

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

256 Timbertop Road, New Ipswich, NH 03071

Email: christensen@catlas.mv.com

Dr. JILL RICHARDSON, Treasurer

Phone: 201-245-7390 * Fax: 201-348-1909

34 Winding Way, Andover, NJ 07821

Email: cwatreas2008@yahoo.com

Council of Directors

Class of 2009

Paul Glassner

Heike Hagenguth

Arden Moore

Class of 2010

Sharon Melnyk

Linda Kay Hardie

Co-Founders/Lifetime Directors

Amy D. Shojai and Michael W. Brim

Immediate-Past President

Nancy Peterson

MEOW Editor Emeritus

Betsy Stowe

Newsletter Editor

KAREN PAYNE

Phone 305-665-1639 * Fax: 305-661-0528

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

Email: karen90@attglobal.net

Webmistress

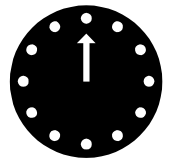
KAREN LAWRENCE

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

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

Email: kml@cfa.org

*Renew Now! Your CWA Dues Are... **PAST DUE!!***



If there is **NOT** a HOT PINK sticker on the cover of this *MEOW*, you can stop reading here – your CWA membership is paid-up through the end of 2009. **Thanks!**

If there **IS** a HOT PINK sticker, you must renew ASAP, or your name will be dropped from the CWA membership rolls! Don't lose your valuable CWA membership! If you want to remain a CWA member (and we hope you do), we must hear back from you ASAP. It's already too late to have your listing appear in the printed 2009 CWA Directory, but you can still renew your membership by paying your dues NOW! Here's how to pay. **Why not do it right now, before you forget?**

2009 CWA Membership Renewal

Option 1: Renew your CWA membership online, via PayPal.
It's quick, easy and secure. Pay with funds from your own PayPal account, or use a credit card (VISA, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express).

Go to www.catwriters.org.
Scroll down to "CWA Membership Information"
Click on "Membership Renewal Form"
Scroll down to the "RENEWAL" section
For "Please select an option," choose "Renewal Fee \$20.00"
Click on the yellow "Buy Now" bubble

— You'll be transferred to a secure PayPal site —

Fill in your billing information, credit card info, etc., or log into your own PayPal account to pay.
(The "credit card expiration date" boxes seem tricky; you need to delete the gray "mm" and "yy" before typing your card's expiration date.)
Continue to follow the instructions to complete your payment.

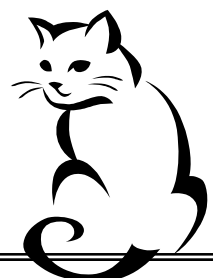
Option 2: Renew the old-fashioned way. Send your check for US\$20 to the CWA Treasurer:
Jill Richardson, DVM
34 Winding Way
Andover NJ 07821

If you plan to renew, **PLEASE** send an email to the CWA Secretary,
Wendy Christensen, at christensen@catlas.mv.com, and tell her so!

Quarterly Quote

"Man can no longer live for himself alone. We must realize that all life is valuable and that we are united to all life. From this knowledge comes our spiritual relationship with the universe."

— *Albert Schweitzer*



2008 CWA SPECIAL AWARDS WINNERS

◆ **THE AKC COMPANION ANIMAL RECOVERY AWARD** is given to the best single entry that informs and educates the general public about issues relating to lost cats, stray cats, behaviors of roaming and feral cats, and all forms of pet identification and recovery. ~ **Awarded to Dusty Rainbolt for her column “Ask Einstein.”** JUDGE: **Melanie Pozez**, the founder of two nonprofits, Chicago Canine Rescue Foundation and Bark Avenue Foundation (Los Angeles): *“The columns are engaging and entertaining, encouraging the reader to finish the article, and make learning the information fun. The organization of the information was thorough, detailed, and helped even novices to the subject(s) to follow the information and stories.”* ~ \$1,000 and a commemorative item ~



◆ **THE DR. JIM RICHARDS/CORNELL FELINE HEALTH CENTER VETERINARY ISSUES AWARD** is offered by Cornell University’s Feline Health Center to the highest-quality entry on the topic of technological advances, research, new medical developments, or innovations in feline veterinary medicine. ~ **Awarded to Dusty Rainbolt for her column “Ask Einstein.”** JUDGE: **Margie Scherk, DVM, ABVP**, is board certified in the specialty of Feline Practice; she served as the 2007 president of the American Association of Feline Practitioners and has also served on the AAFP Feline Vaccine Guidelines Panel; and she is the North American editor for the JOURNAL OF FELINE MEDICINE AND SURGERY: *“The tone is lovely; it is delightful and easy to read these columns. Several other entries reported very well and accurately on feline heartworm and H.A.R.D., but the winning entry imparted the information to the reader in a manner that was the easiest to integrate.”* ~ The award consists of \$500. ~



◆ **THE FORT DODGE/ HEALTHY CATS FOR LIFE TURNING POINT AWARD** is for the best published work by a beginning cat writer or photographer. At the time of entry, the author must not have published more than three short works on companion animal topics in professional markets, and no books; and must not yet have won a CWA Muse Medallion™ or CWA Special Award. **Awarded to Judi Basolo for her book MIRACLE ON O’FARRELL STREET.** JUDGE: **Elizabeth Egan Miller**, publisher since 1996 of CITY + COUNTRY PETS MAGAZINE, a free monthly in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex: *“This story is heartwarming. Without being sappy or sad, the author does a good job of bringing the reader into the unlikely events that follow. A touch of humor with a dash of excitement and a dose of hope. A good tale with a happy ending.”* ~ \$500 and a commemorative item ~



Photo provided by Judi Basolo

◆ **THE FRISKIES® WRITER OF THE YEAR AWARD** is presented by Purina to the writer who has done the most to promote the welfare, health, and proper care of cats during the contest year; the award is for “a body of work.” ~ **Awarded to Arnold Plotnick, DVM, medical editor of CATNIP and CAT FANCY columnist.** JUDGE: **Diane West**, the founder and publisher since 2002 of NEW YORK TAILS magazine, an all-volunteer magazine for the people and pets of New York since 2002: *“In engaging, easy-to-read and vividly descriptive prose, this writer manages to impress upon the reader the seriousness of a number of health topics, including several of which even the most devoted cat owner may not have been aware.”* ~ \$500 and a Baccarat cat figurine ~



◆ **THE HARTZ® EVERY DAY CHEWABLE VITAMIN AWARD**, sponsored by Hartz Mountain Corporation, honors the highest-quality entry on the topic of older cats. ~ **Awarded to Debra M. Eldredge, DVM, Delbert Carlson, DVM, Liisa Carlson, DVM, and James Giffin, MD, for their book CAT OWNER’S HOME VETERINARY HANDBOOK.** JUDGE: **Brian T. Voynick, DVM**, director of the American Animal Hospital Association and past chairman of the New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association Ethics and Grievance Committee: *“Very concise, accurate, up-to-date, easy to follow and well indexed for the lay person.”* ~ \$1000 and a commemorative plaque ~



(continued on the next page)

2008 Special Awards (continued from page 4)

◆ **THE HARTZ® GLAMOUR-PUSS AWARD**, sponsored by Hartz Mountain Corporation, honors the best single entry on the topic of feline skin and coat care. ~ **Awarded to Dusty Rainbolt for her book CAT WRANGLING MADE EASY: MAINTAINING PEACE AND SANITY IN YOUR MULTICAT HOME.** *JUDGE: Anne Horowitz, owner of The Cat Connection boutique and a grooming salon exclusively for cats: "I liked the humor mixed with all the very accurate information. Whether you were talking about cat grooming or litter box issues, all topics were addressed from the point of the view that the author has gone through these problems as well. Great job!" ~ \$1000 and a commemorative plaque ~*



◆ **THE HARTZ® MILK REPLACEMENT FOR KITTENS AWARD**, sponsored by Hartz Mountain Corporation, is awarded to the best single article or single radio or television broadcast on the topic of rescuing kittens. ~ **Awarded to Dusty Rainbolt for her article "7 Products to the Rescue" (CATNIP).** *JUDGE: "The Cat Therapist" Carole Wilbourn, co-founder of the first Manhattan cats-only hospital in 1973 and author of the monthly column "Cats on the Couch" which ran for 16 years in CAT FANCY: "I have chosen this article because it tells rescuers what to do with the rescued kitten from the moment the kitten appears and how to make the kitten's life easier with common sense, love, and products that will make the kitten more comfortable. Comfort and love are critical." ~ \$1000 and a commemorative plaque ~*



◆ **THE IAMS® RESPONSIBLE CAT OWNERSHIP AWARD** is presented by the Iams Company for the best individual or series entry on the topic of pet owner responsibility. ~ **Awarded to Dusty Rainbolt for her article "Focus on Fostering/Spotlight on Fostering" (CATNIP).** *JUDGE: Margo Biblin, the founder of Margo for Animals, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing services and education to promote responsible animal care and the prevention of cruelty to animals: "Excellent. Complete yet short enough to be read and hopefully followed by many. Whether fostering or adopting, these guidelines are vital to responsible cat care." ~ \$500 and a commemorative plaque ~*



◆ **THE MERIAL HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND AWARD**, sponsored by Merial, is presented to the entry that best reflects and promotes the strengthening of the human-animal bond, highlighting the bond between a cat and its owner, as well as their relationship with their veterinarian as another direct caregiver. ~ **Awarded to Linda A. Mohr for her book TATIANNA: TALES AND TEACHINGS OF MY FELINE FRIEND.** *JUDGE: Randy Grim, founder and director of Stray Rescue, who with his staff has received the Red Cross Life Saver Award and the St. Louis FOCUS award for "innovative solutions": "It met all the judging criteria for special awards, wonderful story telling. (It had the) best ability to reflect and promote the strengthening of the cat/guardian bond and relationship." ~ \$1000 and a commemorative certificate ~*



◆ **THE PRO PLAN® PEDIGREED CATS AWARD** is presented by Purina to the writer or creator of the best entry of the year that focuses on cat breeds, pedigreed cats, and professional breeder issues. ~ **Awarded to Joan Miller for her article "Pedigreed Cats in Peril" (CAT FANCY).** *JUDGE: Jan Rogers, a Birman breeder since 1987, and a CFA Allbreed Judge, treasurer and board member of the CFA Foundation, president of Cats Limited, secretary of Gulf Shore Consortium and Show and Tell Cat Club, and board member of National Birman Fanciers: "This article was concise, spoken in understandable terms, bridging the pedigreed cat with the wild cat issues, and driving home the points of concern. 100% about the cat – big or small, and focusing not only on the breeder but the general public as well. Very educational, extremely well organized, no fluff, and accurate." ~ \$500 and a commemorative bowl ~*



(continued on the next page)

2008 Special Awards (continued from page 5)

◆ **THE PURINA® CAT CHOW® NUTRITION AWARD** is given for the best column or article or book on the subject of feline nutrition. ~ **Awarded to Sally Deneen for her article “Serving Safe Food for Cats” (CATNIP).** *JUDGE: Susan Lauten, Ph.D., a clinical instructor in nutrition at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine who trains veterinary students, interns, and residents, and sees outpatients interested in nutrition, home cooking, or weight loss for their pets: “The winning article was outstanding – the perfect mix of numbers, information, and situations. It was excellent, concise, and accurate. It also made me want to read to the end.” ~ \$500 and a commemorative pewter bowl ~*

◆ **THE PURINA® ONE® HEALTH AWARD** is for the outstanding single article reporting on feline health issues. ~ **Awarded to Dusty Rainbolt for her “Ask Einstein” column “Heartworms, Distemper and Lost Cat.”** *JUDGE: Cynthia Rigoni, DVM, owner since 1984 of All Cats Veterinary Clinic in Houston, the fifth cats-only veterinary practice opened in the United States; Cornish Rex breeder since the late 1970s; and a Cat Fanciers’ Association Master Clerk: “This column provided the reader with vital, thorough, and accurate information about heartworms and panleukopenia in an enjoyable format. Despite the fact that it was written from the point of view of a cat, it didn’t talk down to the reader. It made you want to keep reading.” ~ \$500 and a commemorative pewter bowl ~*



◆ **THE PURINA® KITTEN CHOW® KITTEN AWARD** is presented to the author of the outstanding entry on caring for kittens. ~ **Awarded to Fran Pennock Shaw for her article “Surviving Kittenhood/Understanding Kittens” (CATNIP).** *JUDGE: Beverly Freed, founder of Kitty Save, a nonprofit cat rescue organization based out of Carrollton, Texas: “Comprehensive and educational. Good work.” ~ \$500 and a commemorative pewter bowl ~*

◆ **THE SF/SPCA ADVO-CAT AWARD**, sponsored by the San Francisco SPCA (SF/SPCA), is presented for the single work that best illuminates shelter programs that advocate for the welfare of cats, save and protect cats, provide cat care and treatment, promote adoption and fostering, prevent cat overpopulation and cruelty, and advance humane education. ~ **Awarded to Carrie Allan for her article “The State of the Cat” (ANIMAL SHELTERING).** *JUDGE: Richard Thompson, founder and Top Cat of the pet community web site Zootoo.com, board member of the Animal Rescue Fund of the Hamptons, and lifelong pet lover who now applies his pet industry experience to help animals: “This article is very well written and speaks about the numerous concerns of cat caregivers. The article is well organized with real-life examples and it also generates awareness of the many issues facing cats.” ~ \$500 and a certificate ~*

◆ **THE STICKY PAWS® TRAINING AWARD**, sponsored by Fe-Lines Inc./Sticky Paws®, is presented for the best article or tape entry on training techniques. ~ **Awarded to Kim Thornton for her article “The Trick to Training Cats” (CATNIP).** *JUDGE: Bash Dibra, author of six best-selling books on responsible pet ownership, training, and the proper treatment of animals in the entertainment industry; and pet trainer to celebrities including Matthew Broderick, Sarah Jessica Parker, Kathleen Turner, Mariah Carey, Joan Rivers, Kim Basinger, and Alec Baldwin; his own pets are featured in motion television commercials, and print ads: “The writing was good and informative.” ~ \$1000 and a commemorative certificate ~ pictures, television commercials, and print ads: “The writing was good and informative.” ~ \$1000 and a*



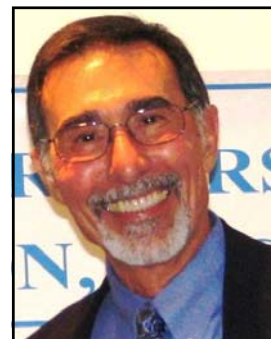
◆ **THE TIDY CATS® FELINE BEHAVIOR AWARD** is presented by Purina for the best entry on the subject of feline behavior. ~ **Awarded to Dusty Rainbolt for her book CAT WRANGLING MADE EASY: MAINTAINING PEACE AND SANITY IN YOUR MULTICAT HOME.** *JUDGE: Kayce Cover, who started training marine mammals at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in 1973 and later oversaw training and management programs for aquatics and bears and for Beaver Valley at the Smithsonian’s National Zoological Park: “This writer’s material consistently checked out for accuracy and is presented in a well-organized format, with lots of useful information extracted into easy to access lists and boxes. The writing is cogent, informative, and very entertaining. I also appreciate that the author makes the source of her expertise clear.” ~ \$500 and a commemorative pewter bowl ~*



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2008 Special Awards (continued from page 6)

◆ **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. ~ **Awarded to Victor DiGenti for his novel WINDRUSHER AND THE TRAIL OF FIRE.** *JUDGE: Ruthanne Brockway, a journalist with more 30 years of editorial experience, 20 of them as an editor at the FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM; she judged this category with assistance from Smokey, a long-haired gray rescued cat: "What distinguishes this book is the smooth pace of the writing. Never too rushed. Never too slow. Always interesting. The author describes a fire and makes readers feel it, smell it, see it: Wow! That's a page-turner."* ~ \$500 and a commemorative item ~



◆ **THE KUYKENDALL IMAGE AWARD**, sponsored by CWA, is presented to the outstanding "image" entry featuring cats – whether photography, illustration, or graphic art. ~ **Awarded to Betsy Stowe for "The Many Faces of Katy."** *JUDGE: David Handschuh, an award-winning staff photographer at the NEW YORK DAILY NEWS for almost 20 years, adjunct Professor of Photojournalism at New York University since 1994, and past president of the National Press Photographers Association: "The pictures clearly showed how much she was a friend and companion over her life. She appeared snide and sly, comical and regal. Clearly the photographer captured many of the lives she had lived."* ~ \$250 and a commemorative item ~



◆ **THE SHOJAI MENTOR AWARD**, sponsored by CWA's past and current 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. ~ **Awarded to Mary Anne Miller.** *NOMINATION by Dusty Rainbolt: "When she says, "Great work," I know that I've hit a bull's eye. While working on my book CAT WRANGLING MADE EASY, I was having problems cutting down the vast amount of information I wanted to share with my readers. She helped me figure out what was wheat and which sections were chaff. Because of my extremely tight deadline I often worked late into the night. If she was awake, she was willing to brainstorm even at two in the morning. Despite her lack of years, her honesty and encouragement helped bring out the best in me. And isn't that what being a mentor is all about?"* ~ \$500 and a commemorative item ~



◆ **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 is the "Best of the Best." ~ **Awarded to Cimeron Morrissey, editor of CAT TALES.** *JUDGE: CWA President Nancy Peterson: "This feline rescue organization's mission to humanely reduce the homeless cat population on the San Francisco Peninsula is reflected in its wonderful quarterly newsletter. Noteworthy news, educational information about cats, and touching stories celebrate felines and the individuals who care for them. As the Feral Cat Program Manager for The Humane Society of the United States, I hold a special place in my heart for homeless cats. My choice for winner of the President's Award goes to the Regional Newsletter of the Homeless Cat Network, CAT TALES, edited by Cimeron Morrissey."* ~ \$250 and a commemorative item ~ ♥

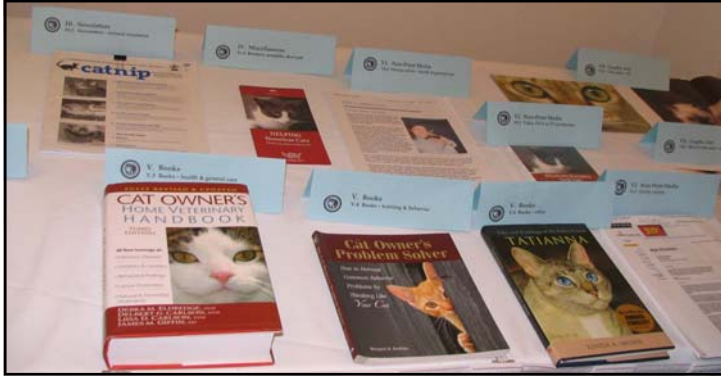


Sincerest Congratulations to all the 2008 Winners!

“This year’s contest drew entries from all over the world, including South Africa and Australia,” said Arden Moore, Contest Chair. “This contest showcases the very best in the feline field of professional writers, broadcasters, photographers, and graphic artists.”



CWA CONFERENCE PIECES & PIX



The 2009 CWA Award Winners Display drew lots of attention.

Congratulations to those who received Service Certificates/Plaques

Maryjean Ballner (retiring Director, 2006-2008)
Arden Moore (retiring Contest Chair, 2006-2008)
Audrey Pavia (retiring Vice President, 2007-2008)
Nancy Peterson (retiring President, 2006-2008),
 who also received a crystal vase
Betsy Stowe (retiring Newsletter Editor, 1996-2008),
 who also received a crystal vase

THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!



(L to R) Melinda Merck, DVM, Nancy Peterson, and Arden Moore

Photos by MIKE FRIESE

Melinda Merck, DVM, ASPCA, was the Friday night speaker. She also brought the ASPCA's mobile crime unit and gave us a tour. Dr. Merck is the ASPCA's Senior Director of Veterinary Forensics and a nationally recognized authority on use of veterinary medical knowledge in animal cruelty cases.



MORE PRIZEWINNERS!!

Barbara Stein was the lucky winner of the **Premier Pet Products Scholarship Award**. The first, second, and third runners-up are Linda Mohr, Alf B. Meier, and Stacy Mantle. ~ \$500 to be applied toward the costs of attending the 2009 conference, where the prize will be presented. ~

The **Comfort Zone® with Feliway® Membership Bounty Prize** was shared by **Clea Simon and Nancy Peterson**, who each sponsored four new members. This prize certainly spurred recruiting efforts; the CWA gained 39 new members this year, compared to 22 last year. ~\$500 ~



Stephanie Galindo received a check for the **Urine Off® Pet Scholarship Award** she won last year.

Warm greetings from San Francisco!

Paul Glassner, a CWA Board member, delivered your magical gift to me: the most beautiful engraved bowl that made me gasp! I truly was expecting a certificate, something simple to put on to my office wall and when I opened up the box, the gorgeous Czech bowl took my breath away completely! And then, I didn't catch my breath totally until I finished opening up all the goodies in the tote bag, oohing and aching as if Christmas morn had arrived early! What a huge CATZOWEY surprise and I just wanted to say thank you.

Thank you so much – I'm forever touched and in midst of writing a new article as you've inspired my creative genes to not ever give up. As Guido the Italian Kitty would say, "It's a meowvalous moment!" ... Thank you and I'm on countdown to meet all of you next November in New York!

Ciao & Meow,
 Judi Basolo



Photo by Joseph Driste

2008 CWA Communication Contest Muse Medallion™ & Certificate of Excellence Winners

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



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

I.1 – Monthly Magazine, National Circulation

***Susan Logan/CAT FANCY**

“Clearly, cats are reaping the benefits of the smart stories and level of expertise exhibited each month in this magazine. Led by Editor Susan Logan, this magazine covers the gamut [from] tackling tough topics like illegal poaching of tigers to addressing the amusing antics of Garfield.”

I.2 – Magazine Article – Health and General Care

***Dave Pratt/My Cat Has AIDS (CAT FANCY)**

Ellen Perry Berkeley/TNR's Impact (CAT FANCY)

Helen Jablonski/What's That Sore on My Cat's Face? (CAT FANCY)

Arnold Plotnick, DVM/What's Your Cat's Type? (CAT FANCY)

Cathy M. Rosenthal/A Matter of Meat (CAT FANCY)

Elaine Wexler-Mitchell, DVM/Getting Off to a Healthy Start (MAINE COONS)

“My top pick offered a memorable and compelling voice, outstanding research/accuracy and perfect organization. Makes me want to read more from this writer.”

I.3 – Magazine Article – Behavior and Training

***Sandy Robins/Training Day (MAINE COONS)**

Fran Pennock Shaw/Here Comes the Welcome Wagon (KITTENS USA 2008-2009)

Kim Campbell Thornton/15 Expert Litter Box Tips (CATS USA 2008)

“Move over, Rover. As this writer proves, cats make for great students. This article was well researched and featured top experts. The writing style is friendly and engaging.”

I.4 – Magazine Article – Any Other Topic

***Carrie Allan/The State of the Cat (ANIMAL SHELTERING MAGAZINE)**

Paul Glassner/On the Feral Front Lines (OUR ANIMALS)

Cheri Harris/Hola, Gato! (CAT FANCY)

Cimeron Morrissey/Common Ground (CAT FANCY)

Cimeron Morrissey/To the Rescue (CAT FANCY)

“An excellent and provocative article. Well researched.”

I.5 – Magazine Column

***Sandy Robins/At Home with Sandy Robins (CAT FANCY)**

Susan Logan/Editor's Note (CAT FANCY)

Cimeron Morrissey/Foster Focus (CAT FANCY)

“Personal and practical. You feel like you're at home with this writer and her cats.”

II.1 – Newspaper Article – Health and General Care

***Kari Winters/Inflammatory Bowel Disease (THE PET PRESS)**

Kari Winters/Don't Get Rid of Your Pet Because You Have Allergies (THE PET PRESS)

“This writer draws you in to a frustrating feline condition and relies on top feline experts to provide info to the readers.”

II.2 – Newspaper Article – Behavior & Training – no winners

II.3 – Newspaper Article – Any Other Topic

***Sally Bahner/The Name of the Cat (PETS PRESS)**

Sally Bahner/The Black Cat (PETS PRESS)

“Fun read – I like the lighthearted introduction and breezy style. Perfect ending.”

II.4 – Newspaper Column

***Amy Shojai/Petiquette (HERALD DEMOCRAT)**

“This columnist is most professional, uses multiple sources, is well organized and clear and concise.”

III.1 – Newsletter – Breed Specific

***Beryl Peters and Melody Amundson/DEVON REX BREED CLUB NEWSLETTER**

“Beautifully produced, this newsletter offers a varied selection of articles and features about this specific breed, club business and cats, in general. The photos were plentiful and lovely.”



(continued on the next page)

2008 Muse Medallion™ Awards (continued from page 9)

III.2 – Newsletter – National Circulation

***Arden Moore/CATNIP**

(“This is a nearly perfect newsletter!”)

III.3 – Newsletter – Regional or Membership Circulation

***Cimeron Morrissey/CAT TALES**

Mike Friese/FELINE CONSERVATION FEDERATION

Louise Holton/ALLEY CAT MEWS

Alexa Howald/FOSTER CAT QUARTERLY

NEWSLETTER

(“This newsletter does a great job of convincing people about the importance of fostering and rescue. Well done!”)

III.4 – Newsletter Article – Health and General Care

***Kim Campbell Thornton/Blended Medicine (CATNIP)**

Sally Deneen/Paying the Price (CATNIP)

Dusty Rainbolt/The Skinny on Fat Cats (CATNIP)

Amy Shojai/Update on Feline Heartworm (CATNIP)

Amy Shojai/The Truth about Ticks (CATNIP)

Kim Thornton/Anesthesia Advances (CATNIP)

(“So many of these articles were exceptionally well written, educational and compelling. A tough pick from a pool of very talented writers.”)

III.5 – Newsletter Article – Behavior and Training

***Sally Deneen/Find Your Feline Match (CATNIP)**

Helen Jablonski/Grooming Gone Wild (CATNIP)

Elissa Wolfson/Cool Games for Cool Cats (CATNIP)

(“This writer did a thorough job of reporting on this new adoption concept and tapped the top experts on this topic.”)

III.6 – Newsletter Article – Other Topics

***Fran Pennock Shaw/Surviving Kittenhood (CATNIP)**

Nancy Marano/Therapy Cats (PETROGLYPHS)

Dusty Rainbolt/Focusing on Fostering (CATNIP)

Dusty Rainbolt/Great Grooming Tools (CATNIP)

(“Expertly addresses the first year of caring for a young feline. A must read for anyone considering adopting a kitten.”)

III.7 – Newsletter Column – no entries

IV.1 – Short Story

***Roxanne Snopek (pen name RG Willems for short story)/Lucky (ANTHOLOGY: BLOOD ON THE HOLLY) (Baskerville Books)**

(“I loved that this short story gave me thrilling chills. I loved the imagination, creativity, characterization, and flawless mechanics. The ‘newspaper clippings’ at the end puts the delicious icing on the cake.”)

IV.2 – Poem

***Betsy Stowe/Feral Hearts (FANC-E MEWS)**

(“This was a truly moving poem. It made my mom cry.”)

IV.3 – Humor – no winners

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

***Nancy Peterson/Helping Homeless Cats (The Humane Society of the United States)**

Cathy Conheim/Kibble for Thought (Breakthrough Press)

(“The winning entry does an excellent job of thoroughly explaining the homeless cat situation. A must-have brochure for every group and every person interested in reaching out to homeless cats.”)

IV.5 – Annual or Long Publication

***IndyFeral (submitted by Rob Day and his contributors)/INDYFERAL 2008 CALENDAR**

(This entry does a good job of teaching about feral cats – very well done!”)

V.1 – Books – Fiction

***Victor DiGenti/WINDRUSHER AND THE TRAIL OF FIRE (Ocean Publishing)**

(“This author has created an innovative fantasy that is entertaining, and inventive. The main character is wonderful: noble, yet humble and dominant, yet gentle and understanding. Great job!”)

V.2 – Books for Children – no winners

V.3 – Books – Health and General Care

***Debra Eldredge, DVM, Delbert Carlson, DVM, Liisa Carlson, DVM, and James Giffin, MD/CAT OWNER’S HOME VETERINARY HANDBOOK, 3rd Edition (Howell Book House)**

Sheila Webster Boneham, Ph.D./SENIOR CATS (TFH Publications)

Elizabeth Hodgkins, DVM, Esq./YOUR CAT: SIMPLE NEW SECRETS TO A LONGER, STRONGER LIFE (St. Martin’s Press)

Dusty Rainbolt/ CAT WRANGLING MADE EASY: MAINTAINING PEACE AND SANITY IN YOUR MULTICAT HOME (The Lyons Press)

(“If cat owners could have only one cat book on their shelves, this should be it. It contains answers to questions you didn’t even know you had!”)

V.4 – Books – Training and Behavior

***Margaret H. Bonham/THE CAT OWNER’S PROBLEM SOLVER (TFH Publications)**

(“This book fulfilled the task of its title in both the topics chosen and the information provided under each of those topics. The author stays focused on feline behavior and its origins in biology and instinct, augmented or modified by life experience.”)

V.5 – Gift Book

***Jackie Strachan/50 GAMES TO PLAY WITH YOUR CAT (TFH Publications)**

(“Recommended as a gift for new kitten owners, or to put a little pounce into your aging feline. This is a gift book that is easy to read and easy to enjoy.”)



(continued on the next page)

2008 Muse Medallion™ Awards (continued from page 10)

V.6 – Other Books

***Nathan J. Winograd/REDEMPTION (Alamaden Books)**
(“The author presents clear, eloquently stated guidelines and arguments for changing the status quo in our nation’s animal shelters: saving animals rather than killing them. The research is extensive.”)

V.7 – Books - Poetry – no entries

VI.1 – Video, DVD, or Television Production

***Bryan Kortis and Nancy Peterson/Trap-Neuter-Return: Fixing Feral Cat Overpopulation (The Humane Society of the United States)**
Amy Shojai/Pet Talk (KXII-CBS)
(“This should be required viewing for anyone working with feral colonies. The depth of content as well as production values are excellent.”)

VI.2 – Radio or Other Audio Presentation

***Amy Shojai/Pet Peeves: A Win-Winn Situation (Pet Life Radio)**
Amy Shojai/Pet Peeves: Cost of Love (Pet Life Radio)
Amy Shojai/Pet Peeves: Claws and Effect (Pet Life Radio)
Deborah Wolfe/Cat Focus (The Animal Magnet – Pet Radio, Progressive Radio Network)
(“This show offered the host in a glorious and relaxed energy. I found it intriguing to learn how science research is funded. Everything about this presentation was on.”)

VI.3 – Online Magazine or Newsletter

***Mary Anne Miller/Felinexpress.com**
(“This online magazine has set the bar high in terms of delivering an outstanding product. It combines professionalism, quality content and easy access. The articles are well researched with meaningful input from the veterinary community.”)

VI.4 – Online Article - Health and General Care

***Amy Shojai/It's All About the Cat! (Shojai.com)**
(“Well written. Excellent research.”)

VI.5 – Online Article – Behavior and Training – no winners

VI.6 – Online Article - Any Other Topic

***Barbara Stein (pen name B. Cat Stone)/Earl the Dead Cat...Alive and Well after All These Years (Our-happy-cat.com)**
Bernadette Kazmarski/Focus on Felines (Mythreecats.com)
Amara Rose/Catalyst (SpiritCrossing.org)
(“I loved this. The writer hooked me and led me straight through a lovely, heart-warming conclusion. What a beautiful job.”)

VI.7 – Online Column

***Dusty Rainbolt/Ask Einstein (Stickypaws.com)**

Marilyn Krieger/Cat Behavior Column (Catchannel.com)
Susan Logan/Mewsings (CatChannel.com)
Arnold Plotnick, DVM/Ask the Expert (CatChannel.com)
Dusty Rainbolt/Ask Einstein (Stickypaws.com)
Amy Shojai/Emotional Health (PurinaCatChow.com)
(“This was an agonizing assignment. How does one pick the best out of so much excellence? The winner breathes new life into common subjects.”)

VII.1 – Black and White Photograph – Single

***Weems Hutto/Picasso Paints (PLANET CAT: A CAT-ALOG)**
Weems Hutto/Scratch the Post, Win a Prize (CATNIP)
Weems Hutto/Supertime! (CATNIP)
Bernadette Kazmarski/Late in the Year (Fostercat.org)
Audrey Pavia/Window Sitters (CATNIP)
(“Love the shot. Wow!”)

VII.2 – Black and White Photographs – Series – no winners

VII.3 – Color Photograph – Single

***Olek Kuperberg/Singapura Up Close (CAT FANCY)**
***Isabelle Francais/Siamese Kittens (CAT FANCY)**
Sally Bahner/Tekla’s Look of Love (PET PRESS)
Charlotte Fiorito/Fiona (OUR ANIMALS)
Bernadette Kazmarski/Mr. Peach on the Rug (Mythreecats.com)
George Lewis/Lounging Burmese (CAT FANCY)
(“The impact of being surrounded by professionals who capture their love of cats successfully with a camera lens is like jumping into a river on a hot day. It cleanses the soul. Stunning photos.”)

VII.4 – Color Photographs – Series

***Bernadette Kazmarski/Cute Kittens (Mythreecats.com)**
Bernadette Kazmarski/Cats Around the House (Mythreecats.com)
Mark Rogers/Cat Safari (LUXURY FOR CATS)
Sandra Toney/Shelter Cats (Petside.com)
(“Tough call! These entries really hit the mark.”)

VII.5 – Cartoon

***Stephanie Piro/Through Yet? (King Features)**
Stephanie Piro/I’m the Star (King Features)
(“Totally captures the feline ‘catitude’ in this cartoon.”)

VII.6 – Illustration

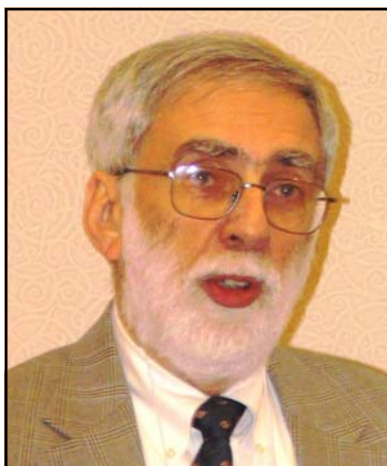
***Drew Strouble/TATIANNA (book cover illustration for book by same name) (iUniverse)**
Carole Stevens Bibisi/Psychedelic Cats (MANDALA NEW MOON NEWS)
(“In this finely detailed portrait, every hair is visible and every blue detail in the cat’s iris is meticulously drawn. I half expect to see the eyes move.”) ♥

*Warmest Congratulations to All the 2008 Honorees!
And, sincere thanks to all the judges
who make our contest possible!*

CWA SEMINARS STIMULATE CREATIVITY!



Robert Menardi, DVM, explains registration requirements and timelines in "Developing Feline Vaccines and Medicines."



Michael Cowl Gordon, MD, shows how to discover what we want to write in "Finding Inspiration for Fiction."



Cat Fancy Editor Susan Logan does a reality check in "Discerning Truth in Journalism: How to Recognize and Present Facts."



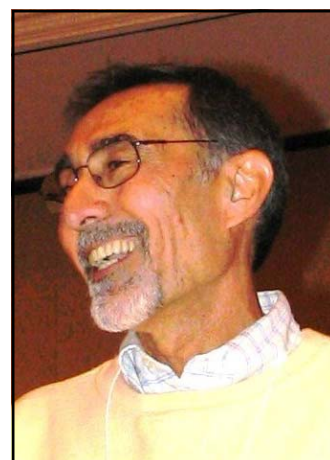
Kim Thornton, founder of the Darcy Fund, tells how to start a pet health fund in "Writers Giving Back: The Darcy Fund."



Ellen Tucker gets us in touch with sources of inspiration and support (including our cats) in "Writing Humor."



Amy Shojai guides us in "Moving from Nonfiction to Fiction" through differences in submissions, finding agents, and pitfalls along the way.



Vic DiGenti reveals his tips for making successful "Marketing Plans for Fun and Profit."



Eve Adamson, author of 50 books, and **Caroline Coile, Ph.D.**, explain "How to Quit Your Day Job and Freelance Full



Dusty Rainbolt shares expertise in "Writing Competitions 101 — How to Write Award-winning Material and Judge Your Peers."



Jane Brunt, DVM, discusses cat body language and tells us how to have a positive experience with "Feline-Friendly Handling."

CAT WRITERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.
FINANCIAL REPORT NOVEMBER 12, 2007- DECEMBER 31, 2008

INCOME:

GRANTS, GIFTS, CONTRIBUTIONS, Awards for Writing Contest and Conference 2008

Zootoo	\$ 500
ASPCA	3000
Pet Sitters	250
Hartz	10000
Pfizer	2000
PETCO	500
Fort Dodge	5000
Merial	1000
Purina	5000
AKC	1000
Morris	1000
Sticky Paws	1000
Central Pet	1500
CFA	250
Bowtie	1000
Petfinder	1500
San Francisco SPCA	500
DWAA	1000
Iams	1500
Sergeant's	1000
Cornell	500
Petplan	500
World's	<u>500</u>

SUBTOTAL **\$40,000**

New members	\$ 960
Renewals, 2008	<u>4240</u>

TOTAL TO DATE: **\$5200**

EXPENSES:

Contest awards	\$ 13,000.00
Contest expenses	887.26
Membership Bounty (SG, NP)	500.00
Muse Medallions™	940.00
Web site stipend	600.00
Contest chair stipend (AM)	1000.00
MEOW winter	1009.86
MEOW fall	623.02
MEOW spring	649.35
MEOW summer	817.04
MEOW stipend	850.00
Taxes	1165.97
Hotel Payment	<u>19,766.25</u>

TOTAL INCOME TO DATE **\$45,200.00**

TOTAL EXPENSES TO DATE **(\$41,808.75)**

CD principal (approximate)	\$ 21,671.94
Checkbook balance	<u>\$ 31,213.03</u>

TOTAL FUNDS **\$52,884.97 as of 12/24/08**

~ Submitted by Jill Richardson, Treasurer, December 25, 2008 ~



PANEL PHOTOS



Behavior Panel: (L to R) **John Wright, Ph.D.**; **Chris Redenback, CDBC**; **Caroline Coile, Ph.D.**; **Cathy Bruce, CPDT**; Moderator: **Amy Shojai** (not pictured here). Panelists discussed common pet behavior complaints and how to research behavior topics.



Editors & Agents Panel: (L to R) **Ellen Price** (*Pet Sitter's World* and *Pet Owner's World*), **Arden Moore** (*Catnip*), **Kimberly Turner** (*Atlanta* magazine), **Susan L. Graham** (About Words Agency), **Mara Bovsun** (*AKC Gazette* and *AKC Family Dog*); Moderator: **Kim Thornton** (not pictured here). Editors of top pet magazines revealed their secrets.



CATalyst Panel: (L to R) **Fred Scott, DVM**; **Amy Shojai, CABC**; **Joan Miller, CFA**; **Jane Brunt, DVM** (CATalyst Council Executive Director); **Lea-Ann Germinder** (CWA Publicity Chair), **Dan Kramer** (Pfizer); Moderator: **Deb Eldredge, DVM** (not pictured here). CATalyst is a national initiative to champion the cat through better feline health care, responsible ownership, and elevation of the status of cats.



Veterinary Panel: (L to R) **Jill Richardson, DVM**; **Jane Brunt, DVM**; **Robert Menardi, DVM**; **Deb Eldredge, DVM**; Moderator: **Marion Lane** (ASPCA) (not pictured here) Panelists discussed how to manage challenging veterinarian-client communication.

President's Message: Déjà Vu and Some Things New!

By Amy D. Shojai, CWA President

Happy New Year! 2009 promises to bring a number of changes to the CWA – including me, serving once again as president. As one of the organization's founders, I served as president for the first nine years, and have since taken a bit of a break despite participating as a member of the Council. Much has changed from the early days, and other things have stayed the same. It's a good time, for a number of reasons, to make some more changes – and if they work, great. If they don't, we can always turn back the clock.



Photo by BETSY STOWE

Amy welcomes a "special guest" to the CWA Conference

I have several goals for CWA this year. First, maintain the high standards and terrific sponsorship relationships that have been established over the years. Second, increase the profile of the organization, in order to maintain and build membership numbers. Third, attract a greater number of *paying* attendees to our annual conference (members and nonmembers), so that CWA funds more of its own programs without relying solely on the generosity of sponsors. I believe that's vital to our health, especially in today's economic climate.

In order to accomplish these goals, I hope to augment our already stellar conference with outside speakers and more advanced topics. Heck, I've been a speaker at nearly every conference, and even I am tired of hearing myself! My wish-list would be a Friday 2-track, with health/behavior expert speakers opposite writer/author speakers; and on Saturday, a showcase for editor/agent speakers from NYC. All this is written in sand (or kitty litter, if you prefer), but it would work very well because of our change of venue and the cat show schedule.

Although we returned to the CFA International in Atlanta for 2008, a planning committee was appointed to study options after the cat show was cancelled in 2007. After much research, and not a little gnashing of teeth, the Council recommended a change, in large part because CFA could not confirm a 2009 Atlanta show by our deadline and we didn't want to risk going solo again.

CWA's 2009 Writers' Conference will be held November 19-22 (the weekend before Thanksgiving) in White Plains, New York – a new part of the country for us, which is great for members in the area. We'll partner with the Westchester Cat Show (www.westchester-feline.org), a TICA event held November 21-22 (Saturday and Sunday) at Westchester County Center. They are eager to work with us, and will host our book-signing event on Saturday and possibly provide other opportunities. While their exhibitors usually stay at the Hampton Inn, that hotel cannot also accommodate our events.

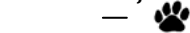
Therefore, CWA will be at the Crowne Plaza White Plains (914-682-0050, 877-227-6963, www.crowneplaza.com/whiteplainsny). The room rate is \$119 per night for 1-2 person occupancy, and you can make your reservations now – ask for the Cat Writers' room block. We have a limited number of rooms, so I'd urge you to make reservations ASAP. After October 29, the rates go back up to \$179/night. There are several other hotels in the area if we need overflow.

White Plains is a half-hour train ride from Manhattan, which will allow our conference committee to invite NYC editors and agents for the first time. I hope that cat show exhibitors will take advantage of our Friday veterinary or other sessions and perhaps become members, since the cat show doesn't begin until Saturday. I'm told their show doesn't include evening events, so exhibitors may also be eager to attend our receptions and banquets.

The hotel will provide CWA with a shuttle to-from the train, and to-from the Westchester Airport. Even better, the hotel has agreed to provide CWA with a shuttle to-from the cat show every hour from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday, a great help for those members wishing to attend as journalists or simply to watch the judging and shop the vendors.

Various committees and chairs are already in discussion and hard at work on 2009 plans (see the list elsewhere in this *MEOW*). All committees welcome input, and volunteer positions are still open which may include a discount for some CWA events – quite a carrot to offer in these economically stressful times. We'll strive to confirm as much as possible on the conference and the contest and announce the details quickly so that members can start budgeting now for both the contest and this historic CWA conference event. I promise you won't be disappointed! ♥

CWA's 2009 Writers' Conference will be held November 19-22 (the weekend before Thanksgiving) in White Plains, New York.



Start budgeting now for both the contest and this historic CWA conference event.

Purrs & Headbutts!!!



... to our corporate sponsors who help make our conference a wonderful success!
PLEASE write and express your thanks to our generous conference and award sponsor representatives:



AKC COMPANION ANIMAL RECOVERY

AKC/CAR Special Award and general conference sponsor
Tom Sharp, Vice President/CEO
c/o Lisa Neely Davis, Executive Administrative Assistant
(lmn@akccar.org)
8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 200, Raleigh, NC 27617-3390

ASPCA: Saturday luncheon

Dr. Stephen Zawistowski, Executive Vice President (stevez@aspca.org)
Marion Lane, Special Projects Editor (marionl@aspca.org)
ASPCA National Program Office, 110 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011

CAT FANCIERS' ASSOCIATION

CWA President's Award and book signing booth
Allene Tartaglia, Executive Director (at@cfainc.org)
P.O. Box 1005, Manasquan, NJ 08736-0805

CAT FANCY MAGAZINE/BOW TIE INC.: Co-sponsor Friday dinner

Susan Logan, CAT FANCY Editor (Slogan@bowtieinc.com)
3 Burroughs, Irvine, CA 92618

CENTRAL LIFE SCIENCES

Membership bounty prize and co-sponsor Friday dinner
Carrie R. Foote, Public Relations Director (CFoote@central.com)
301 W. Osborn Road, Phoenix, AZ 85013-3997

CORNELL FELINE HEALTH CENTER: Cornell Special Award

Dr. Fred Scott, Interim Director (fws2@cornell.edu)
Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine
Ithaca, NY 14853

DOG WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (DWAA)

Co-sponsor writing seminars
Pat Santi, Secretary (rhydowen@aol.com)
173 Union Road, Coatesville, PA 19320

FE-LINES INC./STICKY PAWS®: Sticky Paws® Special Award

Chris Ruben, Sales Manager (cmr@Concept-to-Consumer.com)
Bonnie Pemberton, President (Kittichik@aol.com)
2806 6th Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76110

FORT DODGE ANIMAL HEALTH

Friday seminar refreshments and Fort Dodge Special Award
Craig Wallace, Vice President of Marketing (cwallace@fdah.com)
Kelly Goss, Communications Manager (GOSSK@fdah.com)
Fort Dodge Animal Health
9225 Indian Creek Parkway, Suite 400, Overland Park, KS 66210

HARTZ MOUNTAIN CORPORATION

Sunday morning membership breakfast, 3 Hartz Special Awards, and general conference sponsor
Bob Shipley, Marketing Department (bshipley@hartz.com)
400 Plaza Drive, Secaucus, NJ 07094

IAMS COMPANY: Friday hospitality reception and Iams Special Award

Kris Parlett, P&G Pet Care External Relations Specialist
(parlett.kr@pg.com)
7250 Poe Avenue, Dayton, OH 45414-5801

MERIAL: Merial Special Award

Kelle Straw, Corporate Communications (Kelle.Straw@merial.com)
Karen Eyer, Senior Coordinator Corporate Communications
(Karen.Eyer@Merial.com)
3239 Satellite Boulevard, Duluth, GA 30005

MORRIS ANIMAL FOUNDATION

Co-sponsor Friday dinner and general conference sponsor
Heidi Jeter, Director of Communications
(hjeter@morrisanimalfoundation.org)
Morris Animal Foundation
10200 East Girard Avenue, Suite B430, Denver, CO 80231

MYTHREECATS.COM: General conference sponsor

Carolyn Kozlowski, Owner (My3CatsandCo@aol.com)
113 Arla Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15220

PETCO FOUNDATION: General conference sponsor

Paul Jolly, Executive Director (PaulJ@PETCO.com)
7262 N. Rosemead Blvd., San Gabriel, CA 91775

PETFINDER.COM: General conference sponsor

Sara Lippincott, Manager of Shelter Outreach (sara@petfinder.com)
Shelter Outreach
1117 W. Springfield Ave., Champaign, IL 61821

PETPLAN: General conference sponsor

Natasha Ashton, Co-Founder and Chief Marketing Officer
(natasha.ashton@petplan-usa.com)
1 International Plaza, Suite 140, Philadelphia, PA 19113

PET SITTERS INTERNATIONAL: Networking sponsor

Patti Moran, President (patti@petsit.com)
Ellen Price, Academic Manager and Editor, PET SITTER'S WORLD and
PET OWNER'S WORLD (EllenPrice@petsit.com)
201 East King Street, King, NC 27021

PFIZER ANIMAL HEALTH: Saturday night reception

Dan Kramer, Senior Marketing Manager (dan.kramer@pfizer.com)
Companion Animal – Parasiticides
150 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017

PREMIER PET PRODUCTS: Scholarship sponsor

Janet Velenovsky, Training & Behavior Education Department Manager
(jvelenovsky@premier.com)
14201 Sommerville Court, Midlothian, VA 23113

PURINA: Awards banquet and 6 Special Awards (Friskies®, Pro Plan®, Purina and Tidy Cats®)

Julie Kahn, Purina Marketing/Public Relations Director
(jkahn@purina.com)
Kaite Flamm, kaite.flamm@purina.nestle.com
1111 Chouteau, Checkmark Bldg. 2-M, St. Louis, MO 63102

SERGEANT'S PET PRODUCTS: General conference sponsor

Joel Adamson, Sr. Vice President of Marketing, Sergeant's
2637 South 158th Plaza, Suite 100, Omaha, NE 68130-1703
Tracy Stanko, PR consultant (tracyS@sramarketing.com)
Jennifer Windrum, PR Manager (jenniferw@swansonrussell.com)
Swanson Russell Associates
Public Relations Counsel
14301 FNB Parkway, Suite 312, Omaha, NE 68154-5299

SAN FRANCISCO SPCA

SF/SPCA Special Award and general conference sponsor
Paul Glassner, OUR ANIMALS Editor (pglassner@sfsPCA.org)
2500 16th Street, San Francisco CA 94103

SHOJAI MENTOR AWARD: Shojai Mentor Award

Amy D. Shojai, CWA President Emeritus (shojai@verizon.net)
P.O. Box 1904, Sherman, TX 75091-1904

THE BOOK BASKET, LLC: Book signing sponsor

Tammy R. Lynn, Owner (TammysBookBasket@aol.com)
108 Company Street, Wetumpka, AL 36092

WORLD'S BEST CAT LITTER®: World's Best Cat Litter-ary Award

Jean Broders, Marketing Manager (brodersjean@grainprocessing.com)
GPC Pet Products
1600 Oregon Street, Muscatine, IA 52761

ZOOTOO, LLC: General conference sponsor

Renée Lane, Zoo Curator, Business Development (rlane@zootoo.com)
400 Plaza Drive, 1st Floor, Secaucus, NJ 07094

DOOR PRIZES, COURTESY OF:

To those who generously donated door prizes to help make our conference so successful, a hearty ***THANK YOU!!*** Please write your individual thank-you notes to those below.

Alley Cat Rescue*

Kylie T.L. Riser
P.O. Box 585
Mt. Rainer, MD 20712
kriser@saveacat.org
www.saveacat.org
(T-shirts)

Amber Lotus

Lawson Day
Amber Lotus Publishing
5018 NE 22nd Avenue, Studio A
Portland, OR 97211
lday@amberlotus.com
www.amberlotus.com
(Urban Tails 2009 calendars)

Bernadette Kazmarski*

315 Sixth Avenue
Carnegie, PA 15106
bernadettekazmarski@comcast.net
www.bernadette-k.com
(conference folder note cards and "The Goddess" print)

Cat Fancy Magazine/Bowtie Inc.

Susan Logan, Cat Fancy Editor
3 Burroughs
Irvine, CA 92618
Slogan@bowtieinc.com
www.catchannel.com
(conference bags)

Catnip Toys

Pat Krook
information@catnip toys.com
www.catnip toys.com
(cat toys)

Catnipetc.com

Dave McDonnell
83 Valley Road
Needham, MA 02492
Catnipetc@aol.com
www.catnipetc.com
(catnip and cat toys)

Cats A Purrin'

Wendy Reidler
1181 King Edwards Way
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
Wendy Reidler
contact@catsapurrin.com
www.catsapurrin.com
(cat toys)

Cats Rule

RuthAnne Miller, CEO and Founder
2900 Glades Circle, Suite 400
Weston, FL 33327
ram@catsrule.com
www.catsrule.com
(signature Cats Rule tote bags)

Celltei*

Angie Yeung
968 Grand Street
Brooklyn, NY 11211
info@celltei.com
www.celltei.com
(Precious Tote-a-Pet)

Central Life Sciences*

Carrie Foote, Public Relations Manager
301 W. Osborn Road
Phoenix, AZ 85013
cfoote@central.com
www.centrallifesciences.com
(gift basket)

Doctors Foster and Smith

Janine Fuchs, Executive Administrative Assistant
P.O. Box 100
Rhinelander, WI 54501
Janine.Fuchs@drsfostersmith.com
www.drsfostersmith.com
(\$25 gift certificate + \$5 discount offer)

Hartz Mountain Corporation

Rebecca Fretty, Director of Marketing
400 Plaza Drive
Secaucus, NJ 07094
c/o Eileen Bolton (ebolton@hartz.com)
www.hartz.com
(conference bags)

The KONG Company

16191 Table Mountain Parkway
Golden, CO 80403
kong@kongcompany.com
www.kong.com
(cat toys)

Lil Orphan Nannies (TM) *

Attn: Karen Song
2618 Wolfen Avenue
Amarillo, TX 79109
karensong1950@gmail.com
www.lilorphanannies.com
(bottle boots)

Lupine®

Crystal Weir, Sponsorship Coordinator
P.O. Box 1600
Conway, NH 03818
crystal.weir@lupinepet.com
www.lupinepet.com
(embroidered key rings)

Lynette Cook

371 Willits Street
Daly City, CA 94014
lynnette@spaceart.org
www.zazzle.com/lynettescook
www.zazzle.com/sugarplumthecat
(conference folder note cards)

MUTTS*

Jennifer Schultz
P.O. Box 101
High Bridge, NJ 08829
jen@muttscomics.com
www.muttscomics.com
(signed MUTTS cartoon print)

Pawbreakers

Brett Buchanan
E.A.T.s - Edible Animal Treats
330 Detroit Avenue, Suite A
Monroe, MI 48162
brett@pawbreakers.com
www.pawbreakers.com
(Pawbreaker edible toys)

PetExtras

Jonathan Kildow
13229 St. Croix Avenue, Unit #2
Lindstrom, MN 55045
petextrastoo@yahoo.com
www.PetExtras.com
(freeze-dried cat and dog treats)

Petmate*

Monte Warren, Manager of Marketing Communications
P.O. Box 1246
Arlington, TX 76004
mwarren@petmate.com
www.petmate.com
(2 Stainless Steel Fresh Flow® Pet Fountains, 2 Nap of Luxury Pet Beds, 2 Luxury Lounger Pet Beds)

Petplan*

Natasha Ashton
Petplan USA
1 International Plaza, Suite 140
Philadelphia, PA 19113
natasha.ashton@petplan-usa.com
www.petplan-usa.com
(sterling silver Petplan tag from Tiffany, 5% discount on pet insurance)

PetsIncredible

Traci Theis
405 S. Pinellas Avenue
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689
traci@animalplanetpv.com
www.petsincredible.com
(cat sitter DVDs)

Pfizer Animal Health

Dan Kramer
Companion Animal - Parasiticides
150 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017
dan.kramer@pfizer.com
www.pfizer.com
(pens and key chains with lights)

Premier Pet Products

Janet Velenovsky
Training & Behavior Education Specialist
14201 Sommerville Court
Midlothian, VA 23113
jvelenovsky@premier.com
www.premier.com
(Clik Stiks®)

Stephanie Piro*

27 River Road
Farmington, NH 03835
stephaniepiro@verizon.net
www.stephaniepiro.com
(Six Chix cartoon strip, T-shirts, book)

The Pride Cartoon

Jane Denny
110-31 73rd Rd, #2F
Forest Hills, NY 11375
jane@thepridecartoon.com
www.ThePrideCartoon.com
(postcard sets)

Walls R Us*

Robert Mauro
36 East Bank Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603-1432
twc8454621234@earthlink.net
<http://www.wallsrus.com/>
(cat wall decals)

Wild Whiskers*

Catherine L. Miller & Karen S. Reed
1614 36th St.
Bellingham WA 98229
wildwhiskers@comcast.net
www.wildwhiskers.com
(Feline Funhouse®)



* = Raffle Prize

Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting of the Cat Writers' Association, Inc.

Sunday, November 23, 2008, Atlanta, Georgia

CWA President Nancy Peterson called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m., EST.

IN ATTENDANCE: Nancy Peterson, President; Audrey Pavia, Vice President; Amy Shojai, President Emeritus/Director; Toni Eames; Ed Eames; Janet Velenovsky; Kim Thornton; Joan Miller; Dusty Rainbolt; and other members and guests.

OLD BUSINESS

- **MINUTES:** A motion was made, seconded, and passed to waive the reading of the minutes, and they were accepted as published.
- **NO SECRETARY REPORT**
- **NO TREASURER REPORT**
- **CONFERENCE REPORT:** 4 new conference sponsors; 6 sponsors increased funding; 1 new special award, from SF/SPCA; 8 new door prize/raffle sponsors. Originally there were about 70 conference registrations, but some cancellations reduced the total to ~ 60 attending seminars, ~ 65 for Friday banquet and lunch. Though 70 registered for Saturday banquet, fewer attended. Mary-jean Ballner received a Certificate of Thanks for her service on the Board. Nancy thanked all people who helped with the conference, and the membership applauded Nancy's efforts to get sponsors.

NEW BUSINESS

NOMINATIONS/ELECTION: The committee chaired by Fran Pennock Shaw and consisting of Nancy Peterson, Marva Marrow, and Amy Shojai submitted a slate of officers/directors (Amy stepped down off the committee when she was nominated for an office). Nancy presented the slate:

- Amy Shojai, President
 - Kim Thornton, Vice President
 - Wendy Christensen, Secretary
 - Dr. Jill Richardson, Treasurer
 - Directors Sharon Melnyk and Linda Kay Hardie (Class of 2010)
- Toni Eames moved to accept the slate as presented; Janet Velenovsky seconded; all were in favor with none opposed, none abstaining. Members congratulated the new officers, and the gavel was passed to Amy.

VOLUNTEERS: Amy stated that she's seeking volunteers for chair and committee positions – some already are filled; others will be filled later.

2009 CONFERENCE LOCATION:

- Council voted to go with the TICA/Westchester Cat Show in White Plains, N.Y. – hotel TBD. Amy explained the reasoning, and asked for a motion to ratify the decision.
- Dusty Rainbolt moved that CWA hold the 2009 conference in conjunction with the Westchester Cat Show, and Nancy Peterson seconded. The motion passed with one "no" and several abstaining.
- Amy noted that the Council would consider in future if advisable to contract for more than one year, based on performance at the first event, cancellation clauses, and other concerns.

2009 PROGRAM: Amy noted that she'd like to put together a program next year that is more generally focused on writing, and make the CWA Conference more of a "writer event" destination, in addition to its cat/pet focus. Potentially this might include both a beginner's track and a more professional track. The program is open to suggestion – Vice President Kim Thornton and Amy will begin preliminary planning soon.

TAX STATUS: For several years CWA wasn't aware we needed to report to the IRS, and as a result, we were assessed penalty fees. Mahmoud Shojai, a tax preparer, volunteered his expertise to file proper reports and appeal the penalties and most were forgiven. One more year's worth remains outstanding. We have the funds to cover this, but it will be better addressed in the future to prevent any further penalties. Council has authorized/hired Mr. Shojai to file the proper returns in a timely manner.

RETIREMENT PRESENTATIONS: Nancy Peterson presented Council of Directors Plaques to retiring officers and chairs:

- Audrey Pavia, retiring Vice President
- Arden Moore, retiring Contest Chair
- Betsy Stowe, retiring Newsletter Editor (she also received a crystal vase) – Karen Payne will take over as the new editor of *Meow*.

There being no other new business, Amy asked for a motion to adjourn. Nancy Peterson so moved, Janet Velenovsky seconded, all were in favor; and **the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Eve Adamson, transcribed by Amy Shojai

CWA COUNCIL OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

"Virtual" Meeting via Email, December 2-16, 2008

OLD BUSINESS

- The Council accepted last year's minutes.
- The Treasurer's report was not available.
- The Contest Report and Recommendations were to come.

NEW BUSINESS

- Approved raising Webmaster's stipend to \$700.
- Approved Newsletter Editor's stipend at \$700.
- Approved MEOW budget.
- Approved designating Betsy Stowe as "MEOW EDITOR EMERITUS" in the masthead of the *Meow*.
- Approved elimination of "co-sponsorship" designation on seminars.
- Approved updating sponsorship confirmation letter to better outline parties' responsibilities.
- Approved funding of hotel room/train cost (if required) for not more than 5 professional NYC editors/agents and one "name speaker," to be determined by the 2009 Conference Committee.
- Named Membership Committee: Amy Shojai, Wendy Christensen, Kim Thornton, Jill Richardson, and Nancy Peterson.
- Named Nominating Committee Chair: Arden Moore.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Shojai

CWA ELECTION RESULTS

Officers

President – Amy D. Shojai
Vice President – Kim Thornton
Treasurer – Dr. Jill Richardson
Secretary – Wendy Christensen

Council of Directors, Class of 2010

Linda Kay Hardie
Sharon Melnyk

EARLY BIRD SPONSORS for 2009

Cat Fanciers' Association (General Conference Sponsor)
Central Life Sciences (co-sponsoring the Friday Banquet and the Membership Bounty)
Cornell Feline Health Center (Special Award)
Fort Dodge Animal Health (Special Award)
Hartz Mountain Corporation (Special Awards, Breakfast, General Sponsorships)
Merial (Special Award)
PETCO Foundation (General Conference Sponsor)
Pet Sitters International (Networking Sponsor)
Pfizer Animal Health (Saturday Reception, Friday Speaker Sponsor, Seminar folio pads)
Premier Pet Products (Scholarship)
Amy D. Shojai (Special Award)
World's Best Cat Litter™ (Special Award)

Sincere thanks for your commitment to CWA!

MARKET NEWS



Pet URLs for sale: Two URLs – petjournalist.com, and petauthor.com – are offered for sale for \$500 each by freelance writer Maryann Mott. Send e-mail to her at maryann@petwriter.com.

Got a Nose for News? Earn money by keeping an ear to the ground for those heartwarming – or heartbreaking – stories about pets and animals. You'll get \$50 per story (with bonus potential) at Pet Pulse, which produces print and video packages of animal news for the Web. Content is syndicated to more than 200 media partners. Interested? Our Jill A. Richardson, DVM, suggests that you should tell petpulse@zootoo.com why you qualify (contacts in the pet industry, journalism background, pet devotee); include name, phone number, location, and, if possible, a resume. ♥

Browse the CWA Web Site to Find More Conference Treats!

Karen Lawrence, CWA's webmistress, is posting to our web site some of the 2008 Conference seminar notes and speeches. They are linked in from www.catwriters.org/annual. These "handouts" are provided as a mentoring service of the individual seminar presenters, giving freely of their time and knowledge. It is hoped that CWA members who couldn't attend the Atlanta Conference last year will find value in these postings.

Also on the web site, you can fill out our conference evaluation form (provided on page 23 of this newsletter). Whether you attended or not, we want to know what seminar topics you'd enjoy next year and whether you're willing to volunteer as a presenter. ♥

**** A Note from the Contest Chair ****

By Nancy Marano

This New Year brings a changing of the guard. We are celebrating the 2008 contest winners in this issue – but we need to think ahead to the 2009 contest as well. With a big thank you to Arden Moore and her contest committee for doing a great job the last two years and a bit of trepidation at the new responsibility, I am taking the reins of the 2009 Cat Writers' Association's Communications Contest.

Dusty Rainbolt will continue helping me as the Special Awards coordinator. Assisting both of us will be Betsy Stowe, Kari Winters and Barbara Stretton. I may ask more of you to serve on the committee as we go along. (Just an advance warning!)

The success of the contest depends on participation by all of you, not only with your writing, but also as judges. Each regular category requires three judges. Please study the categories listed below. Right now they are the same as they were last year. There may be slight changes in the future, in which case I will notify everyone and ask for more judges. After you look over the categories, email me at nmarano@aol.com with the three categories you would be willing to judge, in your order of preference. Remember, you cannot judge a category you think you will enter, so please don't include those. Also send me the names of people outside CWA who would make good special awards judges.

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

I.1 - Monthly Magazines
I.2 - Magazine Article - Health and General Care
I.3 - Magazine Article - Behavior and Training
I.4 - Magazine Article - Any Other Topic
I.5 - Magazine Column
II.1 - Newspaper Article - Health and General Care
II.2 - Newspaper Article - Training and Behavior
II.3 - Newspaper Article - Any Other Topic
II.4 - Newspaper Column
III.1 - Newsletter - Breed Specific
III.2 - Newsletter - National Circulation
III.3 - Newsletter - Regional or Membership Circulation
III.4 - Newsletter Article - Health and General Care

III.5 - Newsletter Article - Behavior and Training
III.6 - Newsletter Article - Other Topics
III.7 - Newsletter Column
IV.1 - Short Story
IV.2 - Poem
IV.3 - Humor
IV.4 - Brochure, Pamphlet, Short Publication
IV.5 - Annual or Long Publication
IV.6 - Opinion Piece, Essay, or Editorial
V.1 - Books - Fiction
V.2 - Books for Children
V.3 - Books - Health and General Care
V.4 - Books - Training and Behavior
V.5 - Gift Book
V.6 - Other Books
V.7 - Books - Poetry

VI.1 - Video, DVD, or TV Production
VI.2 - Radio or Other Audio Presentation
VI.3 - Online Magazine or Newsletter
VI.4 - Online Article - Health and General Care
VI.5 - Online Article - Behavior and Training
VI.6 - Online Article - Any Other Topic
VI.7 - Online Column
VII.1 - Black and White Photograph - Single
VII.2 - Black and White Photographs - Series
VII.3 - Color Photograph - Single
VII.4 - Color Photographs - Series
VII.5 - Cartoon
VII.6 - Illustration



YES! I want to be a 2009 contest judge! Count me in!

(Please type or print legibly.)

Please volunteer now to judge the 2009 CWA Contest. It's easy. Simply fill out this form and send it to Nancy Marano at the address below. **SIGN UP NOW!!**

- ☐ I am a Professional member and volunteer to judge in the 2009 CWA Communications Contest.
☐ I am an Associate member and volunteer to assist the 2009 Contest Committee.

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

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

NAME: _____ CONTACT INFO: _____

AUTHORS — YOU CAN DOWNLOAD CWA AWARD BOOK STICKERS!

CWA award-winning authors now can download and print high-resolution logo stickers to put on their books. Two versions of these award stickers are available on our web site:

- (1) **CWA Muse Winner**, with the Muse Medallion™ logo and trademark notation
- (2) **Award Winner**, with the CWA logo art, intended for Special Award contest winners

Present and past winners of CWA contest awards for book entries are eligible to print the book stickers via a password-protected system. (We even give you a link to where you can buy the proper-sized Avery labels online.) These book stickers are not intended for use on web sites or other materials.

Qualifying winners might want to check with their publishers and agents about how best to use this free publicity tool. Past winners may want to start stickering their books right away. The sticker templates can be downloaded and then printed by authorized individuals anytime, courtesy of CWA Webmistress Karen Lawrence.

All you need to do is contact CWA President Amy D. Shojai (at amy@shojai.com) for the secret code. ♥



WELCOME MAT



NEW MEMBERS [member numbers in brackets]

Niki Anderson [P573-08], 1405 E. 54th Avenue, P.O. Box 30222, Spokane, WA 99223, 509-443-7246 (home office, business, and fax); Email: Nander1405@aol.com; Web site: www.NikiAnderson.net. Niki specializes in inspirational/devotional writing for cat lovers (i.e., true cat stories and the lessons they teach). She's the author of *What My Cat Has Taught Me about Life: Meditations for Cat Lovers*.

Judi Basolo [P569-08], 1247 Jones Street, San Francisco, CA 94109, 415-730-5111; Email: Guido@TheGuidoGazette.com; Web site: www.theguidogazette.com. Creator of *The Guido Gazette*, a great way to start your day the Guido way. She is working on a screenplay for a major cartoon film while accompanying Guido to AAT and charitable fundraising events.

Sheila W. Boneham, Ph.D. [P575-08], 7820 Stonewall Run, Fort Wayne, IN 46825, 260-490-8529; Email: sheilaboneham@comcast.net; Web site: www.sheilaboneham.com. Sheila specializes in selection, care, and training of cats and dogs. A former CWA member (Welcome back!), she's also a member of the DWAA and Sisters in Crime.

Jane E. Brunt, DVM [P576-08], CATalyst Council, Inc., P.O. Box 22773, Kansas City MO 64113; 1-888-280-8995 (office), 410-627-7921 (mobile); Email: Jane.Brunt@catalystcouncil.org; Web site: www.CatalystCouncil.org; Dr. Brunt is a former CWA member (Welcome back!), Executive Director of the CATalyst Council, Inc., and a member of the American Association of Feline Practitioners, the American Animal Hospital Association, and the American Veterinary Medical Association. She enjoys collaborating with others to improve the health and welfare of cats across the United States, to see a day when all cats are cared for and valued as pets.

Dr. Sarah Caney, BVSc, PhD [P574-08], 5 Comiston Rise, Edinburgh, EH10 6HQ Midlothian, SCOTLAND, UK, +44 131 4455295 (home), +44 7711 390219 (business); Email: scaney@catprofessional.com; Web site: www.catprofessional.com. Dr. Caney is a veterinary surgeon with 14 years' experience in first opinion and referral feline-only practice; her particular interest is geriatric feline medicine – especially systemic hypertension, renal disease, and endocrinology.

Peter "Treeman" Jenkins [P578-08], 1284 Merry Lane, Atlanta, GA 30329, 404-636-1936, 404-377-3150 (business), 404-929-0654 (fax); Email: treeman@mindspring.com; Web site: www.treeclimbing.com. Peter is a writer, instructor, photographer, storyteller, and treetop cat rescuer. He's the founder of Tree Climbing International, Inc. and has produced a DVD, *Tree Climbing Basics* (Big Tree Publishing, Atlanta, GA).

William McDonald [A570-08], 2334 Lake Park Road, #200, Lexington, KY 40502, 859-227-7195; Email: McDonald.William@insightbb.com; Web site: www.OneMillionLoveStories.com. William is a marketing professional whose expertise is in writing for children. He's the author of *Parsley* (an ebook).

Sandra J. Murphy [A577-08], P.O. Box 19207, St. Louis, MO 63118, 314-941-4429 (cell); Email: stlouisfreelancewriter@mindspring.com. Sandra's interests include pet sitting, humor, general health and therapy pets. She's editor of *The Leash* for Love on a Leash pet assisted therapy, and editor of *SPAWN* for SPAWN (Small Publishers, Artists, Writers Network).

Jacque Newman [P571-08], 106 Oak Park Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4C 4M3 Canada, 416-588-1604; Email: info@forloveofcats.ca. Web site: www.forloveofcats.ca. She's a writer and editor, and publishes an online cat magazine, *For the Love of Cats*. A former DWAA member (under the name Jacque Lindsey), she's the winner of four DWAA Maxwell awards.

Jo O'Brien-Singer [P567-08], 418 W. Holly Drive, Orange City, FL 32763-7624; 386-774-6560; Email: moonweb@aol.com; Web site: www.petside.com (work), <http://frequentlyfeline.blogspot.com> (personal blog). Jo, a freelance writer/blogger and former registered breeder of Siamese and Oriental Shorthairs, focuses on cat health. Feline nutrition is her passion. She enjoys helping cat lovers with issues pertaining to their cats.

Bits & Bytes



Congratulations to all our talented members for their many accomplishments!

Debbie De Louise announces that her book *Cloudy Rainbow*, written in memory of her cat Floppy, has been published by Booklocker.com. A romance featuring a cat and a virtual world, it's available in ebook or softcover at www.booklocker.com.

Barbara Moss tells us that her new book (her first work of fiction) is out. *The Adventures of Sir Goblin, the Feline Knight* is about a heroic cat that lived in the Middle Ages, rescued people, and solved mysteries. This young adult book is suitable for ages 8 to 90. You can get early-release and signed copies from the author prior to national spring release. For information, see www.barbeat.com and www.polarbearandco.com.

Pamela Bauer Mueller's newest title, *Aloha Crossing* (Piñata Publishing), is a finalist in the Children's Educational category of the National Best Books 2008 Awards. Her book *An Angry Drum Echoed: May Musgrove, Queen of the Creeks*, was awarded an Honorable Mention in the Young Adult category of the 16th Annual Writer's Digest International Book Awards.

Dr. Jill Richardson appeared on the *CBS Early Show* in October with adoptable pets (dogs and cats, dressed in pet costumes) from NYC Animal Care and Control to promote ZooToo's "Adoption is the Option" program.

Betty Sleep tells us that her new Purrlock Holmes book, *Purrlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Treasure* (Felinity Publishing), is out. Both of Betty's Purrlock Holmes books now are available to shelters, rescues, and other charitable groups (dog and cat) at wholesale prices for use in fundraising. To read about the stories and place orders, see www.purrlockholmes.com.

A number of CWA members have been published in the newly released book, *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Loving Our Cats*. This book contains 101 of the best cat stories published in previous Chicken Soup books. It features pieces by members **Ellen Perry Berkeley, Christine Davis, Toni Eames, Nancy Kucik, Lesléa Newman, Lisa-Maria Padilla, Amy Shojai, Betsy Stowe, and Patti Thompson**.

& THESE CWA MEMBERS RECEIVED ONE OR MORE NOMINATIONS IN THE 2008 DWAA WRITING CONTEST:

Joanne Anderson	Sally Deneen	Sandy Robins
Sheila Boneham	Deb Eldredge, DVM	Jacque Lynn Schultz
Steve Dale	Paul Glassner	Amy Shojai
Christine Davis	Cherie Langlois	Kim Thornton

Randy Russell [P568-08], 38 Moody Road, Asheville, NC 28806, 828-670-6759; Email: randyrussell@aol.com; Web site: www.ghostfolk.com. Randy's expertise is in the folklore of the cat. He's the author of *Ghost Cats of the South*.

Ann Sperring [P572-08], 4790 SW 21st Place, Ocala, FL 34474, 352-299-3019 (business); Email: atlas318@cs.com. Ann's areas of expertise include writing for the elderly, law enforcement, and wildlife rescue and recovery. ♥

VOLUNTEER TODAY!

By Amy D. Shojai, CWA President

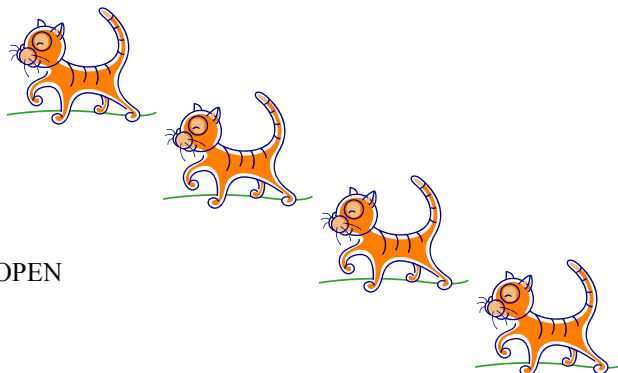
CWA depends on volunteers!
Please read the volunteer descriptions at www.catwriters.org/volunteers and use the handy form to designate your interest.

Some committee chairs have already been named, but many still need chairs and members, and all welcome your suggestions and input. As the year goes on, new positions may also be created. In particular, CWA wants newer members to participate. Some positions require attendance at the conference, while others can be done long distance.

If you volunteered last year and haven't been contacted to repeat, please email Amy as she may have misplaced your name or had some other major brain burp.

Volunteering offers a wonderful way to increase networking, learn about the organization, and maybe even earn discounts on CWA programs such as contest or seminar registration! Please email amy@shojai.com for information and to volunteer, and she'll get your information to the proper person.

- **Conference Committee:** Amy Shojai, Chair; Kim Thornton, Sharon Melnyk, Fran Pennock Shaw, Barbara Stretton
- **Awards Banquet Program:** Lynette Cook
- **Conference Brochure:** Wendy Christensen
- **Publicity:** Lea-Ann Germinder, Ann Leighton
- **Writers' Web Sites Liaison:** Sandra Toney
- **Registrations:** Sharon Melnyk
- **Door Prizes:** Nancy Peterson
- **Contest Chair:** Nancy Marano
- **Contest Certificates:** Julie Ann Mock
- **Webmaster:** Karen Lawrence – backup person needed: OPEN
- **Information & Guidelines Coordinator:** OPEN
- **Non-Attending Author Display:** OPEN
- **Conference Photographer:** OPEN
- **Editor/Agent Appointments Coordinator:** OPEN (note, this year MUST be able to attend conference and assist onsite)
- **Autograph Party/Book Signing Committee:** OPEN (at least one committee member must be onsite)
- **Awards Display:** OPEN (attendance at conference required)
- **Recruitment Committee** (for enticing new members): OPEN



A Message of Love and Thanks

By Meow Editor Karen Payne

No words are adequate to express my joy as I begin the task of editing *Meow* for the Cat Writers' Association. That's why my famous performing cat Princess Kitty® ("The Smartest Cat in the World"), who always spoke and acted from her heart, appears in the accompanying Valentine's Day photo as a messenger of thanks, love, and good wishes from me to all of you.

I treasure the opportunity to serve as editor of one of the voices of CWA. I am honored and determined to do my utmost for our organization. My predecessor, Betsy Stowe, did her best to guide me through production of this first issue. She is most deserving of the "MEOW Editor Emeritus" title bestowed on her by the CWA Council. I'm grateful for Betsy's dedicated service and expertise and also for the handwritten note that graced my every copy of *Meow*. Betsy's little "Hi, Karen!" brought lots of sunshine to my world, and I hope to share that sunshine with you as we travel along together.

Many years ago, I was privileged to receive a Muse Medallion™ for *Princess Kitty's Incredible Cat Tricks* video. Amy Shojai was the president of CWA back then, and as I take the helm of *Meow*, she is again president of our group. We have come full circle. I am delighted to be working beside the inimitable Amy and

in the company of the very best people in the world: cat people. And not just any cat people, but purr-ific writers and artists who are truly "the cat's meow"! In this magical concatenation of circumstances, all my most joyful memories (including the inspiration of Princess Kitty) and many plans, projects, and hopes are with me and ready to share our journey.

I am a cat trainer, writer and editor, founder of the keynote address of the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society, business communication trainer, cat rescuer, spiritual seeker, and freelancer-of-all-trades. I'm here to work with you and learn from you. I welcome your feedback and friendship and hope to see you at the 2009 CWA Conference. Please join me today in volunteering for CWA. *Here's to our cherished cats and to CWA's success!* ♥



Photo by Deborah Gray Mitchell
© 1988 Princess Kitty, Inc. All rights reserved.

Cat Writers' Association, Inc., 2008 Conference Questionnaire

**Which of the following seminar topics would you most like to see at the 2009 conference?
Choose up to 10 topics and rate them numerically with #1 being your first preference.**

- ☐ Pitching Articles That Sell: Techniques That Win Assignments
- ☐ Using Story-Telling Techniques to Improve Your Writing
- ☐ Designing Your Own Webpage/Benefits of a Web Page
- ☐ Behavior Issues/Hot Topics Panel
- ☐ Research for Fiction and Nonfiction (sources, organization, and how to use research in your work)
- ☐ Writing Humorous Essays/Memoirs
- ☐ Writing Dialogue That Sings
- ☐ Blogging: What It Is, What It Can Do for You
- ☐ Story Structure: Ways to Shape Articles and Books
- ☐ Writing and Selling Personal Experience Articles
- ☐ Moving from Nonfiction to Fiction
- ☐ Fiction: Small-Group Manuscript Critiques
- ☐ Writing for Children & Young Adults
- ☐ Grammar Tips for Writers (how not to look bad to an editor)
- ☐ Best Digital Cameras for Non-Photographers
- ☐ Media Training: How to Succeed When You're on the Other Side of the Interview
- ☐ Breaking into Other Genres (travel, food, health, etc.)
- ☐ Legal Issues for Writers: Copyright, Fair Use, and Contract Negotiation
- ☐ Writers' Tool Kit (guide to the best resources for writers, including books, software, web sites and pet sites; how to find good sources; and the benefits of attending conferences)

What other specific seminar topics would you suggest?

Would you be willing to serve on a committee for next year's conference, conduct a seminar, or be a panel moderator? If yes, please describe how you would like to serve, or what topic you'd like to present.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Please return this form or email this information

by February 28, 2009

TO: Kim Thornton, 22841 Orchid Creek Lane, Lake Forest, CA 92630

Email kthornton@cox.net

(Other comments and suggestions about this year's conference can be written on the back of this form.)

Name

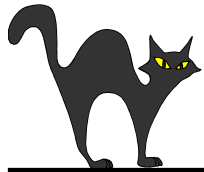
Address

City/State/Zip

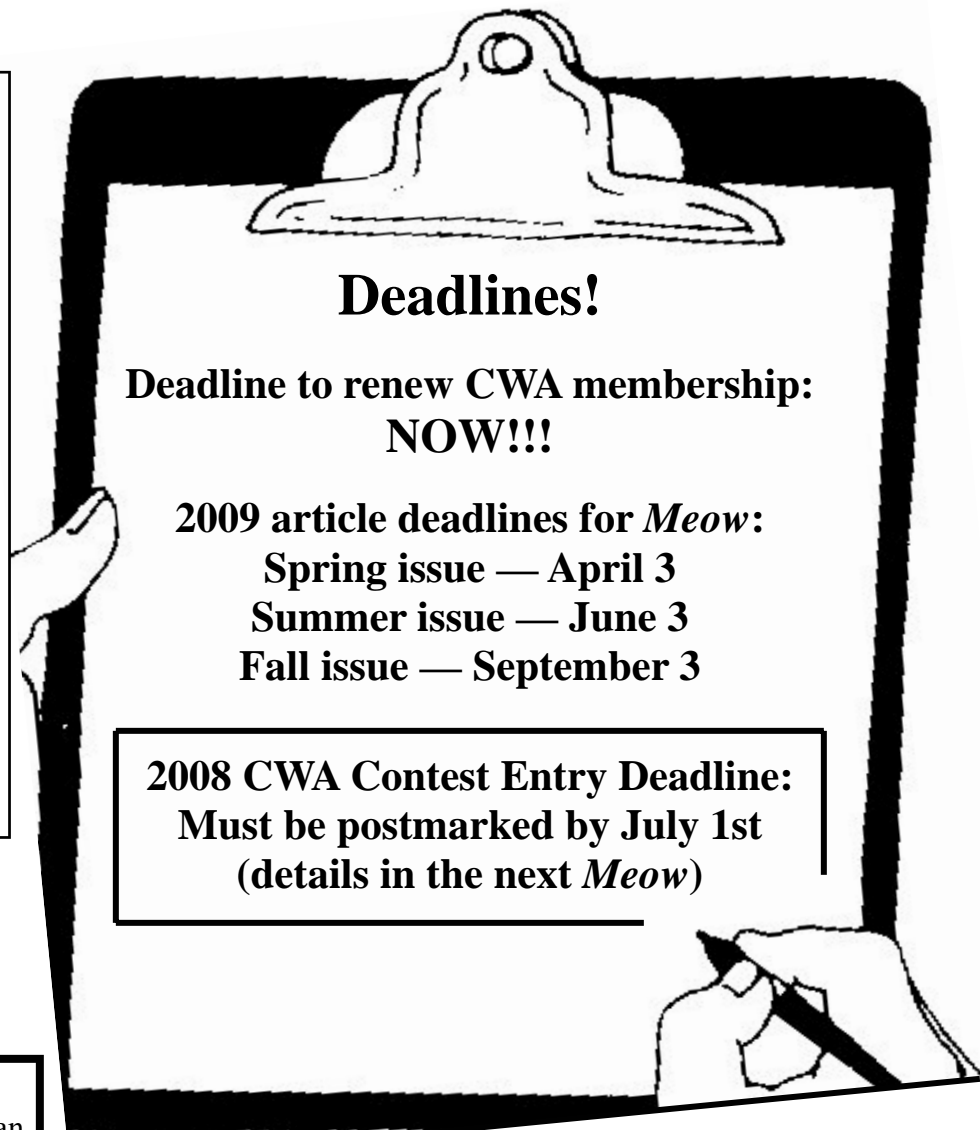
Phone/Email

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

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



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Deadlines!

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

2009 article deadlines for *Meow*:

Spring issue — April 3

Summer issue — June 3

Fall issue — September 3

**2008 CWA Contest Entry Deadline:
Must be postmarked by July 1st
(details in the next *Meow*)**

"Mark" Your Calendars!

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~ including photos by Betsy Stowe and Mike Friesse ~

Meow

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CAT WRITERS' ASSOCIATION

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

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