



Meow

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

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

Plan to Attend CWA's 2009 Conference!

Time to Make Reservations & Get Ready to Join Us for a Writing Extravaganza

By CWA President Amy D. Shojai

News Flash! I just made plane reservations for the 2009 Cat Writers' Association 16th Annual Conference, flying from Dallas to Westchester County Airport in White Plains, N.Y. (stopping in Chicago). There are currently many flights to choose, but the word is that airlines will be reducing the number of flights — so there may be a reduced number of times/spaces in the coming months. I hope you plan to come, and make your hotel and travel plans soon to get the best deals.

Kim Thornton and her team have worked their fingers to the bone putting together a stellar lineup of speakers, editors and agents. This issue of *MEOW* will have a preview — just a taste of what's in store. I hope to soon have conference details and registration information posted on the CWA web site, so stay tuned and start packing your bags. You won't want to miss out! ♥

Here's What You Need to Know about Train Travel to and from New York City

Our Crowne Plaza White Plains conference hotel, and the TICA cat show venue, are not far from the White Plains train station. This is a commuter train (not the New York City subway system). The commuter train system that runs north of New York City is called Metro North. In New York City, the Metro North trains leave from Grand Central Station, which is at 42nd Street and Park Avenue. The subway lines 4, 5, 6, 7, and S also stop at Grand Central Station. (The subway stops in the same building, but the commuter trains leave from a different set of tracks. So you will need to come upstairs and follow signs to Metro North).

The White Plains station is on the HARLEM LINE. Any train that runs on the Harlem Line will stop there (even the express trains; it's an express stop). There is also a North White Plains station, but this is not the one you want. You want the White Plains station.

The fare is \$7.25 each way, off peak (that means not during rush hour, which is weekdays when people are going to and from work). Make sure you buy your ticket in the train stations. There are windows selling tickets at Grand Central Station, and also ticket vending machines at every station where you can use a credit or ATM card. Tickets bought on the train carry a hefty surcharge!!

Trains run fairly frequently during the day. At night they run much less often, but they do run all night. The ride is about 35 minutes on an express train and 45 or 50 minutes on a local train.

You can download the train schedules at www.mta.info/mnr/. Note that there are different schedules for Mon-Fri and Sat-Sun. Also, the schedules change every few months, so download yours when we get closer to the actual conference date. — *By Beth Heidi Adelman*



BE THERE! Dusty Rainbolt, Kim Thornton, Nancy Peterson, Mary Ann Miller, and Amy Shojai display their CWA Conference smiles. — Photo by Betsy Stowe

INSIDE

President's Message	2
Contest Notes	3, 14
CWA Contests 102	4
CWA Contest Categories	5
CWA Contest Rules	6-7
Special Awards & Guidelines	8-9
CWA Contest Entry Forms	10-12
Election News	13
Conference Notes	13, 16
2009 CWA Sponsors	15
Tribute to Kari Winters	17-18
Bits & Bytes/Barks & Bytes	19
Welcome Mat	20

**Start getting your contest entries together (if you haven't already).
Entries must be postmarked by July 1, 2009, to qualify for the
Cat Writers' Association 2009 Communication Contest!**

President's Message

By Amy D. Shojai

Writing Is Our Passion



Amy with her kitty, Seren

I have a confession to make. After nearly 17 years as a full-time writer, I took a “real” job this past January. After three years of volunteering in the music program, the opportunity to teach high school choir fell into my lap. The added income (and insurance coverage!) seemed a godsend, particularly during these economically challenging times.

Prior to 1992, I squeezed writing and research into lunch hours, weekends, and after-work marathons, often working past midnight. I never questioned the challenge, and it was no hardship to work seven days a week – I was that *hungry* to succeed as a writer. When I took the teaching job at the first of the year, I assumed writing after-hours would be easy, and had forgotten how difficult doing double-duty can be. But for the past five months, I've been getting up early to write, taking the laptop to work during breaks, and coming home from school to work at writing until midnight

– just to maintain my regular weekly columns. Those who manage this balancing act year after year have my upmost respect, because I simply can't do either justice while working both at once.

The experience reminded me exactly who and what I am. A writer – THAT is my “real” identity, no matter what else I might do on the side. Teaching did give me a surprising gift, though, something I hadn't felt in a very long time. It made me *hungry* all over again.

This issue of *MEOW* should remind all of us who we are, and why we do what we do. Contest information challenges us to be our best. The conference material inspires us to never stop learning. The new member listing offers mentoring opportunities, and reminds us why we began to write. Two new contest awards, the Kathryn Hopper “Fritz-the-Brave

Award” and the “Kari Winters Rescue and Rehabilitation Award” celebrate the lives of special CWA members who accomplished so much in their too-short lives – we should aspire to be like them.

An incredible group of people make CWA events possible. Some work from home, others have outside professions, but all share a dedication to writing, and to the special cats who share our lives and hearts. Every volunteer has real-life demands that require attention, time, and energy. But when something is important, when we have a passion for a cause, a club, a cat, or our profession, we make it happen. If writing were easy, everyone would do it!

Make plans now to benefit from the contest and conference, and see firsthand the results of volunteer labors. You can still be a part of it by offering your services, so don't hesitate to drop me a line. Lyn Garson has agreed to chair the book signing event. Kim Thornton has put together a terrific speaker list. Fran Shaw and Audrey Pavia lined up magazine editors, book editors, and agents. So far they have editors from Barron's, BowTie Press, and TFH Publications, and agents from Epstein Literary Agency and

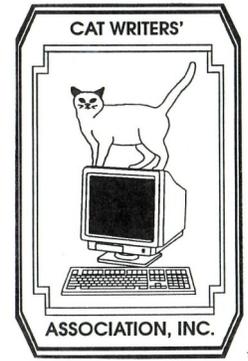
Make plans now to benefit from the contest and conference, and see firsthand the results of volunteer labors. You can still be a part of it by offering your services.

Folio Literary Management, with more to come. Conference updates including PayPal online registration will be available at

the www.catwriters.org website, so check back regularly.

Please note several changes in conference details in the attached flier. The agent-editor appointments and book signing event are now available to non-members, but *you MUST purchase a FULL registration to participate*. Early-bird fees remain the same as last year – and early registration has been extended – **but fees DOUBLE if you pay late**. Should you decide to come at the last minute, take advantage of reduced-fee “special” package deals.

So read *MEOW* from cover-to-cover, and then ask yourself – what is *your* passion? Are you hungry enough to pursue it, despite obstacles? That's what writers do. And after June 6, when school's finally out, just watch my writin' smoke! ♥



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(www.catwriters.org)

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Shojai Mentor Award

Excerpts from the 2008 Nomination Letter

The **SHOJAI MENTOR AWARD** recognizes the CWA member who in the past three years has offered guidance, encouraging counsel, support, or other help that has had a direct and positive influence on another's writing/publishing success. The recipient shall exemplify the highest ideals of the CWA vision, that is, to promote communal support, networking, and mutual respect between colleagues.

The Shojai Mentor Award was established to recognize how important this concept is to Cat Writers' Association and Shojai Mentor Award founder Amy D. Shojai, to CWA members, and to the health and well-being of our organization.

Let these words inspire you to write your own nomination letter for someone to win this year's Shojai Mentor Award (please see the form on page 12). Remember, your nominee must be a member of CWA, and you cannot nominate yourself.

Congratulations to last year's winner of the Shojai Mentor Award – Mary Ann Miller!

"When you think of a mentor, you usually think of someone who shares her vast writing experience with another writer.

Occasionally, you will find a rare individual who can mentor writers with far more years under their quill. She is one of those individuals. I'd ask her opinion about my current project and she was honest in her answer. No holding back. None of this, 'nice work' when an article obviously needed more work. Without honest feedback, none of us can grow and improve. She frequently provides that feedback that forces me to go back and polish. But when she says, 'Great work, Dusty,' I know that I've hit a bull's eye." – From the Nomination Letter Submitted by Dusty Rainbolt

IT'S CONTEST TIME! Submissions Are Due & Judges Are Needed NOW

By Nancy Marano, Contest Chair

HURRY! Gather up your best published or radio/TV work from the last year and enter it in the 2009 CWA Communication Contest! The deadline for entries is July 1, 2009. No ifs, ands, or buts. **Your entry MUST be postmarked on or before July 1, 2009,** to be considered.

We need all of our Professional members to step up and offer to judge. With seven new categories, we need 21 more judges this year. By my count, 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. Just send me your name and category choices. Please fill out the form below, or email me at nmarano@aol.com with your preferences. Please remember you cannot judge a category you plan to enter. Everyone who volunteers to judge or help the contest committee gets a discount on his/her own Regular Category entry fees.

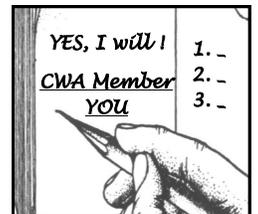
I invite members to submit the names of people they might like to see as Special Awards judges and send in a brief statement of their expertise. A Special Award judge cannot be a CWA member. When submitting a name to me, include a valid email address and phone number. If at all possible, please ask the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

YES! I WANT TO BE A 2009 CONTEST JUDGE!

(Please type or print legibly.)

Please sign up 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 Communication 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) at nmarano@aol.com.

NAME _____ EMAIL OR PHONE _____

CWA Contests 102: The Judges Speak for Themselves

By Dusty Rainbolt

In the last issue of *Meow*, I shared suggestions from prominent CWA members about how to judge your peers in the CWA Writing Competition. This time you'll find out, in the judges' own words, what qualities they found most important in choosing winners.

I researched judges' comments about the winning entries for both Muse Medallions™ and Special Awards for every contest since 1997. These are the most commonly quoted observations, and apparently they reflect what judges are looking for in winning entries. The numbers in parentheses roughly indicate the number of times a comment was made throughout the years of judging.

Keep all this in mind as you select your entries for this year's contest, and also next year when you plan, write, and select those winning contest submissions. Good luck and good writing!

Keep It Real (40) *(The judges looked for information that applied to the reader's real life, with examples from other cat owners' lives and medical cases.)*

- *Practical (realistic) advice/information (11)
- *Informative & understandable (1)
- *Useful information (7)
- *Real-life examples (6)
- *Personal stories (8)
- *Provides sane, useful, humane information
- *Gave readers enough information to be of use, but wasn't overwhelming
- *Enlightening (3)

Easy (20)

- *Easy to use (2)
- *Easy to read (8)
- *Friendly tone (5)
- *Easy to relate (2)
- *Doesn't overwhelm reader, shares medical information in way that is easily understood (2)
- *Easy to follow suggestions (tips) (8)

Made a Complex Topic Understandable (26)

- *Succinctly discussed a very technical subject in an understandable manner (3)
- *Scientifically accurate, yet comprehensible to the lay reader
- *Easy to understand (5)
- *Reader-friendly style (3)
- *Conversational (Casual) (10)
- *Simple to understand without being condescending
- *Does not take a stuffy textbook approach
- *Material was explained simply enough for the level of audience

Contest Chair Nancy Marano expects that judges will receive their contest entries for judging by the beginning of August. She needs to have the results back by September 7 at the latest.

Well Researched (54)

- *Well researched (30)
- *Uses excellent resources
- *Annotated (referenced) (5)
- *Excellent use of veterinarians and other professional sources (8)
- *Extraordinarily well referenced from today's most authoritative sources
- *Authoritative (3)

Humorous and Informative (35)

- *Humorous (upbeat) (13)
- *Entertaining (7)
- *Fun to read (3)
- *Clever quips
- *Good mix of excellent info and entertainment (5)
- *Moving, [filled] with humor and warmth

Serious (6) *(Some judges had no sense of humor.)*

- *Straight to the point (no-nonsense) (Straightforward approach) (4)
- *Formal (2)

Well Organized (20)

Comprehensive (30 total)

- *Took a narrower topic than some and explored it thoroughly
- *Detailed (2)
- *Comprehensive (23)
- *In depth
- *Broad in scope
- *Addresses a common problem uncommonly well

Concise (10)

*"The author has succeeded in condensing, within a few pages, a wealth of information – a total exploration of her subject matter that would require a dissertation."

- *Concise (8)
- *Succinct

Timely (10)

- *Timely (8)
- *Up-to-date information
- *Current

Accurate (10) *(Surprisingly, accuracy wasn't #1 in the judges' comments. Perhaps the judges considered accuracy a given.)*

- *Accurate (9)
- *Credible

Voice (8)

- *Engaging narrative (2)
- *Visual, lyrical text
- *Created mental pictures (2)
- *Delightful voice
- *Engaging

Educational (6)

- *Author demonstrates an impressive knowledge of cats
- *Educational tips (2)
- *Very informative
- *Good solid information (2)
- *High relevance to readers

Objective (4)

- *Balanced viewpoints (2)
- *Fair
- *Objective

Miscellaneous

- *Presented new information
- *Insightful (2)
- *Addressed the most common misconceptions
- *Usefulness and clarity (clearheaded)
- *Clarity
- *Straightforward
- *Inspirational

Dusty Rainbolt is a multiple award winner who has worked on CWA's Contest Committee in various capacities for seven years.



CAT WRITERS' ASSOCIATION

2009 COMMUNICATION CONTEST REGULAR CATEGORIES

I. Magazines

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

III. Newsletters

(Printouts of newsletters distributed by email may be entered in this category)

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

IV. Miscellaneous

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

V. Books

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

VI. Non-Print Media

- VI.1 – Video, DVD, or Television Production (VHS videotape or DVD that plays in a standard DVD player must be included)
- VI.2 – Radio, Podcast, or Other Audio Presentation – Mixed Format
- VI.3 – Radio, Podcast, or Other Audio Presentation – Guest Interview Format
- VI.4 – Radio, Podcast, or Other Audio Presentation – Call-In Show Format
- VI.5 – Radio, Podcast, or Other Audio SHORT Presentation – Under 10 Minutes (any format, 3 examples in triplicate)

VII. Internet/Web Sites & Blogs

(Blogs must be published in professional venues, not personal blogs)

- VII.1 – Online Magazine, Newsletter, or Website
- VII.2 – Online Article – Health and General Care
- VII.3 – Online Article – Behavior and Training
- VII.4 – Online Article – Any Other Topic
- VII.5 – Online Column (3 individual columns, 3 copies of each)
- VII.6 – Blog: Single Blog (3 copies of each + blog address)
- VII.7 – Blogs: Regular Blogs (3 different blogs, 3 copies of each + blog address)

VIII. Graphic Arts

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





2009 CWA COMMUNICATION CONTEST RULES



1. Entries for all categories must be postmarked by July 1, 2009, 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, 2008, and June 15, 2009. 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 category Online Magazine or Newsletter will be judged directly from the entrant's web site between August 1 and August 30, 2009. (Since the judging of this category falls outside our normal timeline, these entries will not be considered for Special Awards. The Special Awards judges do not have time to judge them.)
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).
7. Submit each regular category entry in triplicate (3 copies), with **one** entry form for each entry.
8. The CWA Entry Form, with category and subcategory noted, must accompany each entry and must be sent to the Contest Chair along with the total entry fee at the time of entry. Any entry that is missing any element (required number of copies, entry form, entry fee) will be considered incomplete and will not be judged.
9. All entries must be submitted either as originals or as high-quality photocopies. Bear in mind that the judges can judge only what is before them, in its published form, and cannot make allowances for editing, cropping, or reproduction quality. Online articles/columns must be submitted in hardcopy with the original online URL and publication date included. The one exception is the category Online Magazine or Newsletter, which is judged live on the Internet during the judging period specified in Rule 3. For this category only, submit an entry form with the URL specified.
10. 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.
11. 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 are the exception in that they may take paid advertising.
12. 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.

(continued on the next page)



2009 CWA COMMUNICATION CONTEST RULES

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13. 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.
14. 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.)
15. An entry must be entered in a regular category to be considered for a Special Award. Send one additional copy for each Special Award entry. (Exceptions: Three copies of the nomination form should be submitted for the Shojai Mentor Award. No additional copies are needed for consideration for the President's Award, and no entry form is needed for this award; the winner of the President's Award is chosen from among the Muse Medallion™ winners, and all Muse Medallion™ winners are automatically considered.) Special Award entries are sent to the Contest Chair starting in 2009.
16. Anyone may submit an entry on behalf of an author/artist, but the award will be presented solely to the author/artist of the entry. The author/artist must be a current CWA member to qualify for the discounted member's entry fee, and CWA membership dues must be paid current at the time of the contest deadline.
17. All judges are chosen by the Contest Chair and his or her Committee. Entries in the regular categories are reviewed and judged independently by three professional CWA members and their scores are averaged by the Contest Committee to determine the winner. Winners of Special Awards are selected by judges who are not members and are not affiliated with the award's sponsor; each Special Award is judged by one judge. Special Awards sponsors may be shown the winning entry before the award is given, but that announcement decision is at the discretion of the judge and the Contest Committee.
18. 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.
19. 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.
20. Regular award finalists receive a CWA Certificate of Excellence and shall be notified in October. In order to earn a certificate, the individual must score an average of 90 or higher based on the scores submitted by the three judges for each category. The winner in each regular contest category shall receive the CWA Muse Medallion™. Special Award winners shall receive recognition as specified in the Special Awards list.
21. Contest results will be announced at the Annual CWA Awards Banquet and published in the Winter 2010 *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."
22. 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. ♥



2009 CWA COMMUNICATION CONTEST SPECIAL AWARDS



AWARD #1: The **AKC COMPANION ANIMAL RECOVERY AWARD**, sponsored by the American Kennel Club, 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. The most appropriate topics are those which emphasize reuniting cats with their owners and responsibly preventing lost cats, such as by using identification and keeping pet cats indoors. Both nonfiction and fiction articles qualify, published in newspapers, magazines, newsletters or professional online venues; plus brochures, books, and radio/television broadcasts. This award consists of \$1,000 and a commemorative item.

AWARD #2: 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; single books; or radio/television broadcasts, designed to educate the general cat-owning public about new developments. This award consists of \$500.

AWARD #3: 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, features, columns, short stories, poems, and radio or television submissions. This award consists of \$500 and a crystal heart.

AWARD #4: The **FORT DODGE/ HEALTHY CATS FOR LIFE TURNING POINT AWARD**, sponsored by Fort Dodge Animal Health, is for the best published work by a beginning cat writer or photographer. This award has very specific criteria: At the time of entry, the author (1) must not have published more than three short works on companion animal topics in professional markets, i.e., markets that pay \$75 or more for each work; and no books, and (2) must have not yet had his/her work honored by a CWA Muse Medallion™ or CWA Contest Special Award. The purpose of this award is to encourage qualifying writers and photographers to strive for the highest professional level of excellence and to provoke a significant change in the recipient's cat-writing career. This is a "turning-point" award. Qualifying work includes articles, columns, short stories, poems, photos, or illustrations published in any medium, including print and electronic. (First books by new authors qualify for this award only if the author meets the other two criteria above.) This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative item.

AWARD #5: 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, 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 #6: 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 single books, articles (print or online), brochures, newsletters, editorials, photographs, and commercial radio/TV tapes. This award consists of \$1000 and a commemorative plaque.

AWARD #7: 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, and videotape broadcasts. This award consists of \$1000 and a commemorative plaque.

AWARD #8: 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 and stories about feral kitten rescue, early spay and neuter, orphaned kittens, and kitten adoption. This award consists of \$1000 and a commemorative plaque.

AWARD #9: The **KATHRYN HOPPER "FRITZ-THE-BRAVE" AWARD**, sponsored by friends of Kathryn Hopper, including members of the online Feline Asthma Inhaled Medications (FAIM) group, 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 topic of feline respiratory disease. Entries are judged on clear writing and accurate research, and should educate readers while promoting positive approaches to diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and/or management of feline asthma, feline upper respiratory infections (URIs), and other airway conditions affecting cats. This one-time commemorative award consists of a \$500 honorarium.

(continued on the next page)

2009 CWA COMMUNICATION CONTEST SPECIAL AWARDS (continued)

AWARD #10: The **MERIAL HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND AWARD**, sponsored by Merial, is presented to the entry that best reflects and promotes the strengthening of the human-animal bond, highlighting the bond between a cat and owner, as well as their relationship with their veterinarian as another direct caregiver. Entries will be judged for exceptional quality and on the ability to convey this concept and connect with the reader. Qualified entries include (but are not limited to) single articles, features, columns, short stories, books, and poetry. This award consists of \$1000 award and commemorative certificate.

AWARD #11: 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 or books; and individual columns, articles, stories, photographs, or illustrations in any professional venue, featuring purebred cats. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative bowl.

AWARD #12: The **PURINA® CAT CHOW® NUTRITION AWARD**, sponsored by Purina, is presented to the best column or article (print or professionally published online) 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 #13: The **PURINA® ONE® HEALTH AWARD**, sponsored by Purina, is presented to the outstanding single article (print or professionally published online) 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 #14: 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, columns, short stories, and labeled series articles in professional venues. Entries will be judged on writing excellence and content accuracy. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative pewter bowl.

AWARD #15: The **STICKY PAWS® TRAINING AWARD**, sponsored by Fe-Lines Inc./Sticky Paws®, is presented for the best article or tape entry on training techniques. Entries should have a “how-to” focus. Appropriate entries are labeled series or single articles (print or professionally published online), columns, 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 #16: 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, or columns in any medium, and should educate readers while promoting a positive approach to understanding and dealing with feline behavior. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative pewter bowl.

AWARD #17: 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 #18: The **KARI WINTERS RESCUE AND REHABILITATION AWARD**, sponsored by The International Cat Association (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. Entries are judged on compelling personal accounts or education about rescue issues. This award consists of \$500 and a plaque.

AWARD #19: 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 this award. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative item.

AWARD #20: 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 on-line publication. This award consists of \$250 and a commemorative item.

AWARD #21: 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 of entries to be submitted. Muse Medallion™ winners shall be automatically entered and considered for the honor. This award brings \$250 and a commemorative item.



2009 Cat Writers' Association Communication Contest

Regular Category Entry Form



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

Entries must be postmarked no later than July 1, 2009. NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED. NO EXCEPTIONS.

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

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

- I am an associate member and volunteer to assist the 2009 Contest Committee.
- I am a professional member and volunteer to judge in the 2009 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.4 – 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, 2008, and June 15, 2009,
and that it meets all the requirements as stated in the Rules.**

Entrant or Submitter's Signature _____

ENTRY CHECKLIST

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

MAIL ENTRIES TO

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

2009 Cat Writers' Association Communication Contest

Special Award Entry Form



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

Entries must be postmarked no later than July 1, 2009. NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED. NO EXCEPTIONS.

The fee is \$1 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.

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.

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

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

NAME OF AUTHOR OR ARTIST _____ CWA MEMBER IDENTIFICATION # _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE (day) _____ (evening) _____ EMAIL _____

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

REGULAR CATEGORY Name and Number in which entry is entered (Example: I.4 – Magazine Article – Behavior and 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, 2008, and June 15, 2009,
and that it meets all the requirements as stated in the Rules.**

Entrant or Submitter's Signature _____

ENTRY CHECKLIST

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

MAIL ENTRIES TO

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



2009 Cat Writers' Association Communication Contest Shojai Mentor Award Nomination Form

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

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

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

(Please type or print legibly.)

NAME of NOMINEE _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE (day) _____ (evening) _____ EMAIL _____

NAME OF SUBMITTER _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE (day) _____ (evening) _____ EMAIL _____

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

ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2009.

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

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

Looking for Catty Leaders for CWA

Nominations Are Open for CWA Elected Offices — Step Up and Be a Leader

By Arden Moore

It IS cool to be catty. And here is your opportunity to demonstrate your fe-line fine leadership qualities.

The Cat Writers Association is seeking members interested in becoming officers and board members to ensure that our organization continues to be the cat's me-WOW in terms of professionalism and benefiting the lives of cats everywhere.

As Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, I am pleased to announce that Su Ewing is interested in taking over the role of president from our current CWA president and founder Amy Shojai. In addition, Wendy Christiansen and Dr. Jill Richardson are happy to continue serving as secretary and treasurer, respectively. Both have been terrific in their roles. Amy has been the guiding force since CWA's inception. Paws up, Amy!

We are looking for a CWA member for the position of vice president, and three Council of Directors positions are also open. Officers serve one-year terms and Directors serve two-year terms. The directors completing their terms at the end of 2009 are Paul Glassner, Heike Hagenguth, and Arden Moore.

Remember, we are a volunteer organization that depends on the talents and teamwork of our members. Yes, we all live crazy busy lives, but we ask that you step up and play a vital role. Outgoing Vice President Kim Thornton Campbell is willing to work with her replacement. Former CWA officers have also indicated they would mentor newly elected members.

In 2007, we were fortunate to have an actual election because we had more qualified candidates than available positions on the council. I would love to stage another election this year to select officers and directors.

Please contact nomination chair Arden Moore at arden@ardenmoore.com if you are interested in becoming a leader in our organization. A full-membership vote will take place later this year, and details will be posted in *Meow* and on the CWA website www.catwriters.org. ♥

The Guidelines for CWA Nominations and Elections can be viewed online at www.catwriters.org/08nominating-guidelines.pdf.



Don't Miss Out on the CWA Book Signing Event!

New CWA member Lyn T. Garson has stepped up to the plate to handle our 2009 CWA Conference Book Signing Event. She's a Certified Vet Tech and member of the National Veterinary Response Team, NVRT-1, so we're counting on Lyn to have absolutely no problem wrangling authors/bookstore/team members for the project!

Ya'll step up to the plate now – it's your turn. Please contact Lyn at LynGarson@cox.net with information about your plans, needs, and/or willingness to volunteer as helpers for this important event!!!

This year, anyone who purchases full conference registration or is a speaker will be eligible to participate in the signing. If it turns out we have limited space, then our Chairperson may need to divide the signing into shifts.

We expect the Barnes & Noble bookstore in White Plains, N.Y., will be our partner for the book signing, and we will have a room at the conference venue for the event. Our host bookstore will order books, or you may bring them yourself. CWA volunteers will staff and sell books during the signing.

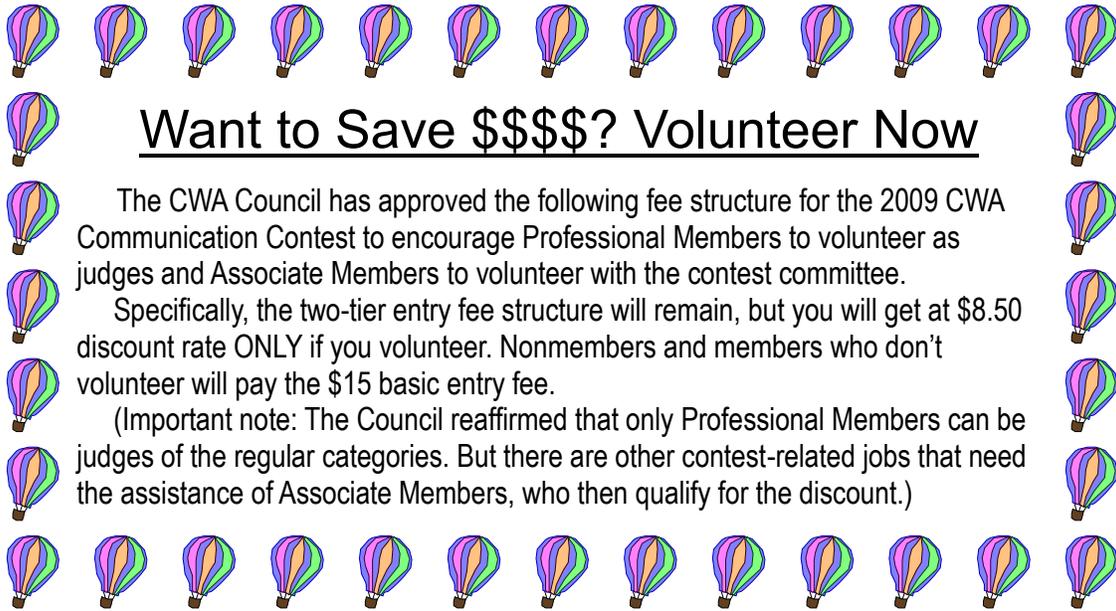
Stay tuned!! More information will be posted online, printed in the fall issue of *MEOW*, and relayed to members through email postings as time for the conference draws nearer.

REMINDER to CWA Members: MEOW IS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE



A PDF version of each 2009 issue of *MEOW* is now posted online, and *MEOW* will continue to be posted shortly after each publication date as a PDF file in full color. If you can't read the PDF version, you may need to install PDF reader software on your computer; you can get it for free at www.get.adobe.com/reader. If you still have problems, please contact CWA Secretary Wendy Christensen for help.

Like the printed *MEOW*, the PDF version of *MEOW* is a benefit for CWA members only. To see *MEOW* online, go to www.catwriters.org/member-logon.html and supply the following username and password: Username: member; Password: cwa2009w. ♥



Want to Save \$\$\$\$? Volunteer Now

The CWA Council has approved the following fee structure for the 2009 CWA Communication Contest to encourage Professional Members to volunteer as judges and Associate Members to volunteer with the contest committee.

Specifically, the two-tier entry fee structure will remain, but you will get at \$8.50 discount rate ONLY if you volunteer. Nonmembers and members who don't volunteer will pay the \$15 basic entry fee.

(Important note: The Council reaffirmed that only Professional Members can be judges of the regular categories. But there are other contest-related jobs that need the assistance of Associate Members, who then qualify for the discount.)

A New Special Award Honors Kari Winters By Nancy Marano, Contest Chair

The 2009 Cat Writers' Association Communication Contest is pleased to announce the addition of a new Special Award. The award is sponsored by The International Cat Association (TICA) and will recognize work on rescue and rehabilitation issues. It is named in honor of Kari Winters, a CWA member who died in May. She worked passionately for the rescue and rehabilitation of animals to get them ready for adoption. For details, see the award description on page 9 of this issue of *MEOW*.

Check the work you've done during the contest period (June 16, 2008, to June 15, 2009) to see whether you have anything that will qualify for this award. If you've sent in your contest entry already and want to enter the competition for this Special Award as well, please advise me of that at nmarano@aol.com. Then send in a Special Award entry form, a copy of the entry for this award, and your entry fee of \$1.00.

REMEMBER!

Your CWA contest entries are due right away. The postmark deadline is July 1, 2009. Waste no time. Mail your entries TODAY!



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SINCEREST THANKS TO OUR 2009 CWA SPONSORS!

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Fe-Lines Inc. (Sticky Paws®)
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2009 AWARDS and/or CONFERENCE SPONSORS

AKC Companion Animal Recovery (award)
ASPCA (Friday reception, Saturday lunch)
Cat Fanciers' Association (award and general sponsor)
Cat Fancy Magazine/BowTie Inc. (co-sponsor Friday dinner)
Central Life Sciences (co-sponsor Friday dinner, membership bounty)
Cornell Feline Health Center (award)
Fe-Lines Inc./Sticky Paws® (award)
Fort Dodge Animal Health (award)
Friends of Kathryn Hopper (award)
Hartz Mountain Corporation (awards, breakfast sponsor, general sponsor)
Merial (award)

Morris Animal Foundation (co-sponsor Friday dinner, general sponsor)
MyThreeCats.com (general sponsor)
PETCO Foundation (general sponsor)
Petfinder.com (seminar refreshments)
Pet Sitters International (networking sponsor)
Pfizer Animal Health (Friday dinner speaker, seminar folios, Saturday reception)
Premier Pet Products (scholarship sponsor)
Purina (awards and banquet)
Sergeant's Pet Care Products (general sponsor)
Amy D. Shojai (award)
The International Cat Association (TICA) (award)
World's Best Cat Litter® (award)

Premier Pet Products \$500 CWA Conference Scholarship: Enter the Drawing & Try Your Luck!

Wouldn't you like to win \$500 to attend CWA's 2010 conference? If so, jump at this chance to enter the Premier Pet Products Scholarship Prize drawing. It's easy to do. Just send your name and membership number to Barbara Florio Graham at simon@storm.ca. Please make your subject line: Premier Scholarship. Although submitting by email is best, you can also send your entry by snail mail to Barbara Florio Graham, ATTN: CWA, 535 Charles-Desnoyers, Gatineau, QC J8P 3X4 CANADA. The new postal rate for a one-ounce letter from the United States to Canada is 75 cents.

The winner will be chosen at random at this year's conference, but will receive his/her check the following year when actually attending CWA's 2010 conference. Three runners-up will also be drawn in the event that the winner cannot attend next year. Remember, the person who wins the random drawing this year does NOT have to be present at this year's conference. The prize is designed so that the sponsor presents the winner with the reimbursement check at our 2010 conference. ♥

\$\$\$ Claim the \$500 CWA Membership Bounty Prize \$\$\$

Comfort Zone® with Feliway® is the sponsor of a \$500 Membership Bounty Prize to the CWA member who sponsors the most new members between last year's and this year's conferences.

We have added 26 new members in the past few months, for a total of 238 members as we go to press, and it's great to see the enthusiasm of the new members and their sponsors. Yee-haw!

Take this opportunity to benefit yourself, a new member, and CWA! Start recruiting those cat writers and artists, and pretty soon you may be carrying home that Membership Bounty check. ♥

LUCY

For Lucy, forever young

By Bernadette E. Kazmarski

Your petite silhouette lingers
long, graceful legs tipped with soundless slender
paws
the waving tendril of a tail curls in a perfect circle
as you pause in your eternal dance
and enrich my life,
awakening nascent creative visions
and laughter at the silly joy of youth,
yellow eyes illumining my world
leaving rainbows in your wake;
the images you inspired in your brief existence
erase the sadness of your leaving
and as I remember and render your antics
I can share you with the world.



Calling All CWA "Kittens" & Cats GET READY FOR TNT TIME!

For those of you who participated in last year's Thursday Night Team (TNT) event, you will surely agree that it was a great way to unwind from a day of traveling, mingle with fellow CWA members, and enjoy a light dinner. The TNT will meet at 7 p.m. in a room to be announced to put together our conference folders and stuff our door prize bags. The more volunteers we have, the sooner we can eat! If you'd like to be part of the TNT festivities, please contact Amy Shojai at amy@shojai.com.



Image by: pdphoto.org

SOLSTICE MOON

For Bootsie, my first cat

By Bernadette E. Kazmarski

A satin silent night,
A silver path through my window,
And silken paws paused to stay
On the pillow next to me.

**SINCERE THANKS TO ALL OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS
For Making Our Contest & Our Conference Possible!**

A Life Dedicated to Helping Pets and People: Remembering Our Friend and Colleague Kari Winters

By Darlene Arden

How does one describe a dear friend and colleague whose contribution to people and pets in need was so much greater than anyone who knew her realized?

An advanced practice psychiatric nurse before health problems forced her to retire, Kari spent many years at Cedars Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles before moving on and up to UCLA Medical Center. At each place she handled the most difficult cases as well as the celebrities, honoring the confidentiality clause she signed through her characteristic ethical behavior. During this time Kari also ran Southern California Siamese Cat Rescue at both state and national levels. As an avid volunteer for The Amanda Foundation, she rehabilitated and rehomed countless cats and dogs, including several who found a permanent home with her. It speaks volumes about Kari that years later, adopters contacted her to thank her and let her know how their “kids” were doing.

Kari became known as a cat person because at one of the shelters she felt no one was paying enough attention to the cats – and she filled the void. Despite constant chronic pain, Kari kept writing and rescuing, rehabbing, and rehoming pets in need. She wrote about her dear friend Gary’s canine companion, Wuffy The Cat Rescuing Dog, helping Wuffy gain recognition in the United States and abroad. Her well-researched, important article on feline infectious peritonitis (FIP) earned her a CWA Special Award from Cornell University, presented by Dr. Jim Richards. Kari was amazed and honored. Other Special Awards (ASPCA) and Muse Medallions™ were earned by Kari, who had looked upon her CWA colleagues with awe, never realizing that her own work was important and more than worthy of accolades. The proceeds of her book, *Princess Fiona*, supported Siamese Cat Rescue.

Kari was a beautiful person inside and out, so it should be no surprise that earlier in her life Kari had been a model in Miami, Florida.

After the very recent death of Kathryn Hopper, Kari was determined to honor her memory through a tribute she wrote for *MEOW*, a CWA Award she insisted on creating, and a permanent memorial for Kathryn and Fritz the Brave that she established in a Siamese Rescue garden. And now I am equally determined to see Kari’s memory honored and preserved. Thankfully, I am not alone. CWA Contest Chair Nancy Marano has provided invaluable help in creating a Special Award in Kari’s memory. Albuquerque Kennel Kompadres, for whom Kari was an avid volunteer and fundraiser, plans a permanent memorial in the new adoption center’s lobby if enough funds are raised in Kari’s memory.

Only a couple of weeks before Kari’s unexpected death, she and I

were discussing the Farrah Fawcett television special about her battle with colon cancer. Kari was adamant, saying, “After I die, I don’t want anyone to say that I lost my fight with cancer. I’m not fighting it!” She

Kari’s work was important and more than worthy of accolades. Here she is at a CWA book signing.

agreed to treatment of her thyroid cancer only because her goddaughter had begged her to do it. Kari also told

me how much she disliked it when people say nice things after someone dies rather than while the person still lives, or never say anything nice at all while the person is alive. We shared that feeling. We made a point of expressing our feelings while we could.



Photo by Betsy Stowe



Kari and Wuffy; photo by Gary A. Rohde

(continued on the next page)

CWA's Tribute to Kari Winters

By Darlene Arden (continued from page 17)

Kari's move to Albuquerque, necessitated by California's incredibly high cost of living, didn't slow Kari down despite her constant pain. She became involved with two local rescue organizations and with Albuquerque Kennel Kompadres, the fundraising and volunteer arm of the City's Animal Welfare Department. Kari fostered dogs and cats and found them new homes and raised more funds than anyone else for the Mayor's Dog Ball to support Kennel Kompadres. She quickly became an involved and caring member of her new community. We'll never know how many lives were saved and improved, how many animals were rehabilitated and carefully placed in loving homes by Kari, just as she never knew how much people cared about her or just how many lives she touched. She was too modest to blow her own horn. Her entire focus was on helping others.

Kari leaves her mother, Leona Winters of Minnesota; her best friend, Gary Rohde of Los Angeles, who was the stalwart in her life, helping her throughout her cancer treatment and even after her move to Albuquerque; and countless cats, dogs, and people whose lives were forever changed by having the privilege of knowing her.

Rest well, My Dear Friend. Though taken from us far too soon, now you are surely one of heaven's brightest shining stars. ♥



THE SWEET FACES OF KARI

Clockwise from upper left: Kari, Wuffy, and Remi; Kari and Nicky; Kari, Remi, and Wuffy at Halloween; Kari, Remi, and Annie; Wuffy kissing Kari (photos: Gary A. Rohde).
Center photo: Dr. Jim Richards gives CWA Special Award to Kari (photo: Betsy Stowe).
Prior page portrait: Kari with Nicky.

If you would like to make a donation in any amount, in Kari's memory, it will be very much appreciated. Please choose among these options:

Albuquerque Kennel Kompadres, Inc.
 Treasurer
 139 Palacio Road
 Corrales, NM 87048

The Amanda Foundation
 351 North Foothill Road
 Beverly Hills, CA 90210

The Ricky Fund
 Winn Feline Foundation
 1805 Atlantic Avenue
 Post Office Box 1005
 Manasquan, NJ 08736-0805

Kari's book, *Princess Fiona: My Purrsonal Story*, is the story of two rescued Siamese cats. Written in fairy tale form, it's a true story with lots of pictures, touching moments, laughs, tears, and, of course, a happy ending. Every penny earned from the sale of this book goes to help abandoned cats. You can find it at www.amazon.com, or order the book from wuffyco@yahoo.com and her friend Wuffy The Cat Rescuing Dog will pawtograph your copy.



Bits & Bytes



Adjunct Professor Beth Adelman will teach a 10-week copyediting course this summer at New York University's School of Continuing and Professional Studies as part of the certificate program in publishing. She prepared homework assignments by taking written copy and adding in lots of mistakes; after a career spent taking out mistakes, she finds it fun to now put them in!

Pamela Bauer Mueller's latest book, *Aloha Crossing* (Piñata Publishing), won the Georgia Author of the Year Award for Middle Readers. She also won a Mom's Choice Award Gold Award for *Aloha Crossing* and for her book *An Angry Drum Echoed: May Musgrove, Queen of the Creeks*.

Barbara Florio (Bobbi) Graham was invited back to the Ottawa Toastmasters humor group in June to speak about creating a humorous character, and she was interviewed by CWA member Deb Wolfe on Animal Magnet Pet Radio. Check Bobbi's news at www.SimonTeakettle.com/media.room.htm.

Roberta Beach Jacobson has joined The Authors Guild.

Marva Marrow is both contributing editor and web editor for *Singular* magazine and www.SingularCity.com, which won three Maggie Awards in April from the Western Publishing Association – including Best New Publication of the year. See the www.singularcity.com website magazine for details.

Linda A. Mohr's author profile and family recipe are featured in *Literary Feast – The Famous Authors Cookbook* (Classic Day Publishing), released this spring. Proceeds benefit the King County Library System Foundation in Washington. For details, visit www.thriftbooks.com/literaryfeast. Her mother's Apple Crisp recipe is a scrumptious selection for busy people who want to serve an old-fashioned, comforting dessert. It requires common ingredients and is quick and easy to assemble from scratch.



And a few member notes...

Steve Dale: Last summer, through coordinated efforts by the Winn Feline Foundation and the HomeAgain Proactive Recovery Network, almost 52,000 cats were microchipped. This year, HomeAgain again has pledged to donate \$1 toward feline health research for every cat microchipped and enrolled in HomeAgain from June through August. Steve is a Foundation board member.

Marion Lane: The ASPCA's successful Harlem Community Block Party last April resulted in 114 pets spay/neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped, plus 250 appointments scheduled and 150 pets licensed. Marion is special projects editor for the ASPCA.

Debra J. White: The Phoenix Animal Care Coalition (PACC911) was among three finalists from a field of 80 in the Be More Awards Contest and was the only animal-related group in the contest. Debra sits on the Coalition's board.

Allia Zobel Nolan's second title in her Bible storybook series has just been published by Harvest House. *Daniel's Diary* is a first-person account of one man's faith and a trap that pits ruler against lawbreaker, friend against friend, and a pride of lions against one pumped-up angel. See details at www.kittylliterate.blogspot.com or www.amazon.com/Daniels-Diary-How-Saved-Lions/dp/0736925449/ref=sr_1_3. Allia will teach a course on "Books that Pop, Squeak, and Sing: the Heavenly Art of Writing Children's Novelty Books" at the South Carolina Writers' Workshop Conference held October 23-25. More good news: her *Worrywart's Prayer Book* has gone into a second printing.

Sandy Robins tells us that her book *Fabulous Felines: Health and Beauty Secrets for the Pampered Cat* (published by TFH) has gone into a second printing and has been picked up by Wal-Mart. Way to go, Sandy!

Shara Pendragon Smock's short story "Her Most Romantic Moment" is in the *2009 Wizards of Words Anthology* to be released in July. Her story "Cubs in the House" is a finalist in the Royal Palm Literary Award competition of the Florida Writers Association (winners to be announced in October). See www.floridawriters.net.

Stephanie Piro has illustrated a brochure for the American Bird Conservancy called "Cats, Birds and You" which details the reasons cat owners should keep their pets indoors.

Deborah Wolfe has a new Pet Life Radio podcast show called "Animal Party" on which she interviews experts from the dog and cat world (including CWA members, of course); delves into pet issues like indoor vs. outdoor, declawing, bad dog breeds, and allergies; and delivers entertaining animal news and fun. Catch her live show "The Animal Magnet-Pet Radio" (link to it from www.campgooddog.com), or hear her new podcast at www.petliferadio.com. Please send suggestions for guest experts to debwolfe@telus.net. ♥

Address Change

Niki Anderson, Email: niki@nikianderson.net, Web site: www.nikianderson.net, Blog: www.nikianderson.net/apps/blog; best-selling author of three cat books and collections of inspirational cat tales that reveal the love and character of God; advocate for feline vaccines.

BARKS & BYTES



These CWA members who won Maxwell Awards in the 2008 DWAA Writing Competition were omitted from the winners' list in our last issue of MEOW. Belated congratulations to our colleagues!

Deb Eldredge: (Regional/Local Club: subject related series) "Herd, Seen, Find" *The Corgi Cryer*

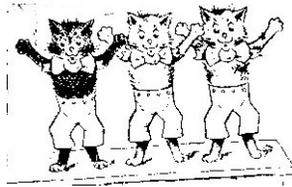
Sandy Robins: (Magazine: feature in yearbook, annual, or special publication) "No Bullies Here" *Bully Breeds*

Jacque Lynn Schultz: (Magazine: article on training and/or behavior in any magazine) "Potty Particulars" *Dachshund Puppies*

Kim Thornton: (Website: regular column) "Creature Comforts," www.MSNBC.com ♥

2009 DWAA Writing Competition

The 2009 DWAA contest is open to all writers, editors, publishers, photographers, artists and others, for work with a focus on dogs published September 1, 2008-August 31, 2009. Entries must be postmarked by September 1. See details at <http://www.dwaa.org/competition/2009-information.html>.



NEW MEMBERS *[member numbers in brackets]*

Dianna Diatz [A586-09], 44719 Clarkes Landing Road, Hollywood, MD 20636-2849; 301-247-4820 (cell); Email: Petpaw-traits.purrtraits@yahoo.com. Dianna specializes in humor and whimsy, writing and illustration, collage, painting on silk, line drawings, and watercolor. She's been a cat "owner" for most of her life and currently lives with three male kitties: Zorro, Oliver, and Danny. Her sponsor is Nancy Peterson.

George Eigenhauser, Jr. [P590-09], P.O. Box 6089, Marysville, CA 95901; 530-329-8658 (home), 530-742-6153 (business and fax; for fax, call first); Email: geigenhauser@allmail.net. George is an attorney who specializes in cat law, animal advocacy, animal welfare, and animal legislation. He's a Board member and the Legislative Coordinator (Legislative Information Liaison) for the Cat Fanciers' Association and a member of the California Bar Association. He has attended the past several CWA annual conferences. His sponsor is Joan Miller.

Jackie Fuchs [P591-09], 8428 Kirkwood Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90046; 323-650-5728, 323-650-5723 (fax); Email: JFuchs@earthlink.net, Web site: www.examiner.com/x-5779-LA-cat-care-examiner. Jackie specializes in cat care for nonprofessionals. She's a member of the California Bar Association, a Huffington Post blogger, and an entertainment attorney with a law degree from Harvard and a bachelors degree in linguistics, summa cum laude, from UCLA. She has been researching feline health and behavior since 1984. Jackie's sponsor is Anne Leighton.

Marta Felber [P588-09], 419 Salem Vista Court, Winston Salem, NC 27101; 336-631-5456; Email info@Lifewords.com; Web sites: www.SterlingtheCat.com, www.Lifewords.com. Marta is an author, publisher, and radio guest. She has coauthored a book with a cat and authored two books on grief. She's the author of *A Cat's Eye view of Life and Love, with Gentle Self-help for All Ages*, by Sterling as told to Marta Felber (2009, LifeWords Publishing). Marta's sponsor is Barbara Florio Graham.

Carol Frischmann [P587-09], P.O. Box 19963, Portland, OR 97280; 503-475-9222; Email: carol@thiswildlife.com; Web site: www.thiswildlife.com. Carol focuses on choosing cats as pets; cats as part of the urban ecosystem; and cats and wildlife. More broadly, she specializes in pets, nature, science, and explaining technical topics to general readers. She's a DWAA member, and has written two bird books for TFH Publishing. Carol is the author of *Pets and the Planet: A Practical Guide to Sustainable Pet Care* (2009, Wiley Publishing, Inc.). Her sponsor is Paul Glassner.

Cecile Smith Moore [P589-09], 142 Great Oak Court, Athens, GA 30605; 706-613-1822 (home), 706-353-2366 (business), 706-546-8845 (fax); Email: Cecile138@charter.net; Web site: www.barxbros.com. Cecile Smith Moore specializes in realistic and impressionistic drawings and paintings of cats. Her business, Barx Bros., Inc. features her art work (including dogs, horses, and exotic pets, in addition to cats) on a variety of products aimed at veterinarians: note cards, stationery, client advice sheets, referral cards, new client cards, etc. Her sponsors are Ed and Toni Eames.

Phil Zeltzman, DVM, DACVS [P592-09], 210 Fullerton Avenue, Whitehall, PA 18052; 610-435-1553; 610-435-3408 (fax); Email: DrPhilZeltzman@hotmail.com; Web site: www.DrPhilZeltzman.com. Dr. Phil Zeltzman is a board-certified veterinary surgeon and is affiliated with the AVMA and the ACVS. He writes as an expert for www.dogtime.com and is a monthly contributor to www.veterinarypracticenews.com. His free weekly ezine is available by subscription at www.DrPhilZeltzman.com. Dr. Zeltzman's sponsors are Susan Bulanda and Arnold Plotnick, DVM. ♥

MARKET NEWS



Barbara Florio Graham offers members a special discount on her Canadian Libraries Database. This list (in block form in Word as well as in database format) is popular with self-publishers and small publishers who want to reach the 90+ Canadian libraries that actually have purchasing power. The price has just been raised to \$35, but until the end of June you can get it for \$25 if you email BFG@SimonTeakettle.com and put the name of your organization in the subject line.

TheCatSite.com is seeking informative short articles (around 800 words) about cat-related topics that have not yet been covered in the site's articles sections. These could be on cat health, behavior, care, nutrition, rescue that promotes good cat care and cat welfare. Rewrites are acceptable, but the wording must be different and exclusive (for SEO reasons). Check it out at www.thecatsite.com. If interested, email Anne Moss at anne.moss@gmail.com. ♥



VOLUNTEER TODAY!

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

Quarterly Quote

*Death is a challenge. It tells us not to waste time...
It tells us to tell each other right now
that we love each other.*

— *Leo Buscaglia*



The Cat's MEOW

My Cat Family: The Rose Still Grows Beyond the Wall

By Meow Editor Karen Payne



ONLY A SHORT TIME AGO I wrote for *Meow* that the sun was shining and the flowers were blooming in my garden of cats. We were happy. Since then, the hand of God has reached out to pluck one of my precious cat flowers. Now I am sorely missing my Gabriela, the sweet songster I called Gabby, the miracle kitty with the fairy feet and the winning ways who was known to all my friends and hers as my most outgoing and loving cat.

Gabby had struggled with asthma for the past three years, and it was an increase in asthma symptoms that took us to the specialist again in April. Through a series of negligent actions, Gabby was pushed into heart failure, her pain was ignored, her inability to eat on her own was not addressed properly, and though the cardiologist brought her back from heart failure, her vets failed to communicate or act together as needed to save her. After a month of home syringe feeding, she stopped eating. At that point I was referred to a kind home vet for euthanasia, and it seemed that Gabby's life was over, but that was only how things seemed. The reality was otherwise.

In fact, the most uplifting and spiritual time in the life of this unique kitty was just beginning – and her heroic and miraculous acts made it also one of the most cherished times of my life and that of many other people.

Gabby was named for the Archangel Gabriel, a figure of strength and beauty, who, like Gabby, had a lot to say. I called her the “miracle kitty” because she had come back so often from a long chain of serious illnesses. I also greatly admired her dainty “fairy feet” that appeared too tiny for her body and always fascinated me.

Sweet Gabriela had a hard beginning, having been rescued as an adult from a street full of cat haters, where she had been abandoned by the woman who had fed her. Gabby was painfully shy and quite unadoptable until I quit trying to give her away. At that point, she morphed into a love bug. Still, I isolated her in my home because of her health issues, and sometimes I thought of her as less worthy than my eldest, most favored cat. How foolish!

Over time, Gabriela's room was painted a lovely blue and decorated with art by Monet, and it became my favorite retreat – her room was an oasis of peace in my chaotic life. Little did I realize that the peace emanated from Gabby herself; I felt it, but did not understand.

When Gabriela became ill this time, I dropped everything, as I had often done before, to nurse her day and night for several weeks. A veterinarian pronounced it a miracle that she did as well as she did for as long as she did. When Gabriela finally stopped eating, she lived on and fully participated in life for such a long while that once again the word ‘miracle’ was spoken by the astonished home euthanasia veterinarian, who knew by then that her only role would be to witness the marvels Gabby had in mind for us.

My teachings began when a little brown sparrow caught my attention in a dramatic way, and I thought of the hymn “His Eye Is on the Sparrow” and realized that I had overlooked the worth and the teachings that my sweet, humble Gabby might have for me.

Suddenly, there came into our lives an avalanche of animals, spirits, angels, and wise people who recognized Gabriela's true worth

love and our blessings are always with you. You are a divine being of light. You are always safe and always divinely protected. Someone who loves you will always be with you.”

Gabriela's journey toward the Light was marked by many occurrences of what is called ‘synchronicity.’ Her special “best friend” said what she witnessed had kindled in her an unshakeable belief in God. Strangers were inspired by Gabby's heroic survival and said their faith was renewed by her. As Gabby continued to defy medical possibilities and bless us with her presence, she was kept comfortable and free from pain. Nobody knew any longer what to think because every passing day was further proof of the power of her spirit over the material world.

When at last the time came for Gabriela to enter the world of Spirit fully, she staged an unforgettable transit. During her illness she often studied a photo of a powerful lioness running across a river. As I prayed and journeyed with her into the early hours of June 9, her visible spirit picked up her tattered body for that last run

across the river for Home. I watched my kitty, who could no longer walk, as she ran gloriously across the room and bounded into the arms of God. It was breathtaking, unforgettable, and impossible – but true.

Gabby lay in state for three days where she died, decorated with rose petals. Her body remained pristine, and the rose petal placed between her fairy forepaws never wilted. When I took her body for

cremation, the owner of Miami's Pet Heaven told me he had never in 30 years seen anything like it – she looked as if she had died not even one hour before.

Many other things have occurred these days which have amazed and blessed me. I am so grateful that I did not heed my vet's advice to cut Gabriela's life short through euthanasia. Natural death may not be for the faint of heart, but it is an option – and there could be no antidote for anxiety, depression, or fear comparable to the beautiful death that Gabriela modeled for those who love her. Perhaps it's time to think about pet hospice and write about how to support pets and their owners through the dying time, which – as I now am able to attest – can be a source of ineffable affirmation of life, love, and joy, an ultimate expression of bonding with our beloved pets.

I sent this note to friends after Gabby died: “Gabriela (Gabby) made a beautiful transition to Spirit at just after 2 a.m. last night. She blessed so many of us who knew her, and we learned many things from her, especially during the last phase of her life when her spirit was so strong. Her last days have been called a miracle by a medical person, and many other people feel that this kitty, whom I always called my ‘miracle kitty,’ more than lived up to her name. Now Gabby's sweet little fairy feet are dancing in heaven, and I am so happy for her. This is a blessed day. Please join me in giving thanks for her precious and beautiful life. I send love and blessings to

everyone who receives this message, with thanks for all your love and support.” ♥

Now Gabby's sweet little fairy feet are dancing in heaven, and I am so happy for her.

I've seen the warrior in her eyes, Inside this angel in disguise.

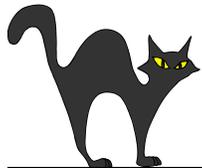
2009 CWA Contest Entry Deadline!!!!

Must be postmarked by July 1st
NO EXCEPTIONS!

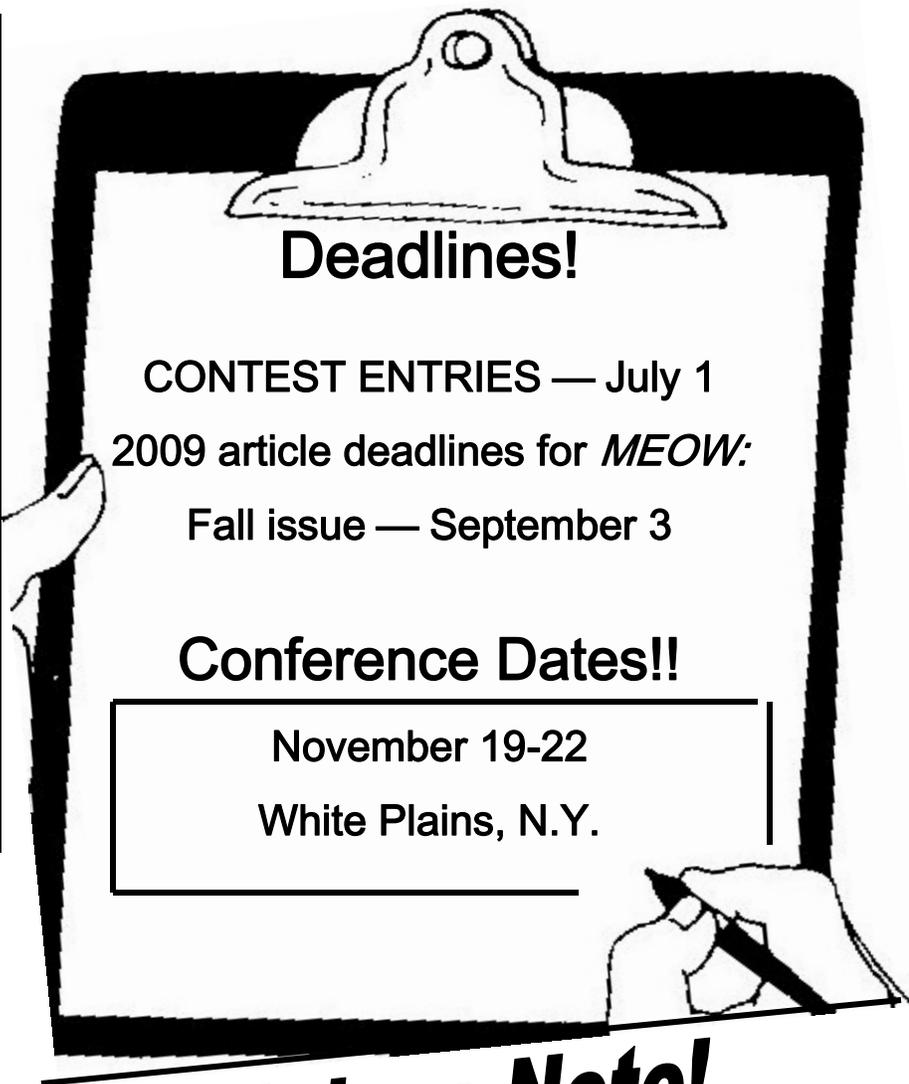
Contest details are found on pages 3-12,
including all the yellow sheets of paper
in this issue of *MEOW*.

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

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



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Meow

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