



Meow

The Award-Winning Newsletter of the Cat Writers' Association ♦ Winter 2010

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

The Creative Life of the Cat Writers' Association: Rooted in the Love of Cats & Writing & Helping Each Other

Heartfelt Thanks to All Who Contribute to CWA's Vitality!

By Amy D. Shojai, Immediate-Past CWA President

Each of us comes to writing in different ways. For some, the urge to write has always been there, comfortable and familiar as the lap-sitting cat. Other times, our Muse plans a gleeful ambush, dashes from a hidden place to trip us up, or leaps from on high to hug our neck. She wakes us at 3 a.m. and demands to be fed, she sinks dagger claws into our heart and soul. The Muse creeps into our lives, her cheek-rubs of affection mark us as belonging to her. She won't relent until we give in to the urge. The urge to write. To create.

We each come to the Cat Writers' Association in different ways, as well. We come as writers, as editors, as poets, and as artists; we come as benefactors who support the whole, and as mentors who guide the individual. The CWA has always been a collective effort of like-minded creative individuals who just happen to have a special passion for cats. I know that vision and that tradition will continue, stronger than ever, as the CWA begins another year

This past November, CWA celebrated its 16th annual conference and 17th birthday – I've been at every one – and somehow the volunteers, presentations, sponsors, and events get better every year. Today CWA membership includes about 250 published writers, artists, editors, and broadcasters from the world of veterinary medicine, animal welfare, cat shows, and more. We come from America, Canada, Australia, Egypt, Germany, Greece, The Netherlands, Italy, New Zealand, and, of course, Texas – hey, that's a country, too! Our one commonality: We are passionate about cats.

CWA members understand, perhaps better than any other group, what it takes to publish that poem, get that tough byline, sell that proposal, host that TV or radio show, publish that magazine or book. It's a passion for your subject, a talent for expression, banging the keyboard (and maybe your head against the wall) at all hours – and don't forget luck. As my husband tells me, "If it were easy, everybody would do it." Dare to dream. You'll never reach that brass ring if you can't imagine it first.

Now, I've talked about my gardening efforts before. Some of y'all know that we have had as many as 700 rose bushes surrounding our home. Over the years, the roses have been attacked by grasshoppers leaving nothing but thorny stems; bulldozed by armadillos so that tender roots fried in the Texas sun; and even over-pruned (with the best intentions), which killed or crippled the plants. Because of this we lost roses that had spectacular flowers and amazing pedigrees. Mostly we lost hybrids – the high-maintenance specimens that were less able to tolerate the insults, and demanded more attention and care to produce their blooms.



CWA Founder and Past President Amy D. Shojai, CAB, at the fabulous CWA Conference Awards Banquet

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HEARTFELT THANKS (continued from page 1)

However, in a surprisingly short time, the grasshopper-eaten roses that had viable roots actually regenerated with fresh and even healthier growth. We also lost quite a few uprooted plants. But when rescued and replanted in time, most of the 'dillo-dozed roses survived – some with scars, to be sure, but still able to produce amazing blooms.

As an over-zealous pruner, I've learned to restrain my instincts and appreciate the thorny, hardened portions of established bushes. This was a hard lesson to learn. See, if they're cut out completely, there's no scaffolding to support fresh growth; the blooms fall in the dirt and are trampled – and the whole bush is lost. But leaving too many thorns results in a tangle of inflexible, untouchable stems to be avoided.

After more than two decades of writing, I'll proudly admit to being a prickly, hardened cat writer. Like many older cats, I have less patience for high-maintenance hybrids than in my youth. It's not healthy for too many thorn-covered, inflexible old-timers to hold office for too long. And that's why I and the other "established roses" of CWA remain eager to support the fresh blooms within our group. I'll always do my best to support the CWA, but new blood is vital for the organization's survival.

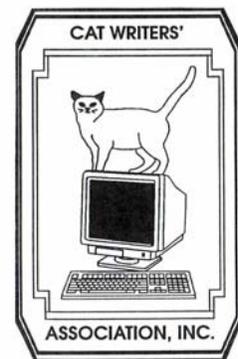
This root system – the CWA – would never have grown so strong and been so successful without the support of our many sponsors and tireless volunteers, who are listed in detail elsewhere in the *MEOW*. You'll recognize many familiar names, individuals and companies who have tirelessly offered their time, talent, and resources year after year, some since our very beginning in 1992. New names – some fresh blooms! – also stand out in the list. They believe in the CWA vision and the culture of mentoring, and dared to become first-time volunteers. There's room on that list for your name, too!

Those of you new to the organization are CWA's future leaders. Don't let that fact scare you. The CWA has a healthy root system nourishing its members, and plenty of thorny support. That's what sustains us through the dry spells, the never-ending deadlines, and the rejections that nibble us raw. Mentoring each other keeps us sane – that's the prickly protection that allows us to create our visions and bloom in our proper season.

This past year has been a trial for many of us, including the CWA. Despite concerns over the economy, our sponsorship fell only slightly, while membership numbers, contest entries, and conference attendance increased. It has been my honor to serve as CWA President, and as 2010 begins, I'm grateful the organization remains healthy and vital. I have no doubt that our dedicated and savvy leaders and our caring members will continue to work together to face any challenge the future may hold. After all, my dear Cat Writers, it's simply what the Muse demands. ♥



Five CWA Presidents: Fran Pennock Shaw, Nancy Peterson, Susan Ewing, Amy Shojai, Kim Thornton



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(www.catwriters.org)

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A Good Year for Volunteering... and Chocolate!

By Susan M. Ewing, CWA President

When our *MEOW* editor, Karen Payne, said she'd need something from me for the newsletter, I thought it would be easy. Turns out I was wrong. What did I want to say in my first presidential piece? I couldn't say anything about bringing new leadership skills to the organization. CWA has always had strong leadership, with Presidents Amy Shojai, Fran Shaw, Kim Thornton, and Nancy Peterson. When I look at those names, I wonder how I ended up in this position at all.

I'd like my years as president to be known as the "chocolate years" as I plan to bribe as many volunteers as possible, using chocolate. Your choice of milk or dark chocolate....

In reality, while I'm sure chocolate will be welcome, bribery doesn't seem to be necessary in this organization. At the awards dinner at the 2009 CWA Conference, Amy had volunteers stand up as she called out various categories, from officers to heads of committees to goodie-bag stuffers. By the time she finished, almost everyone in the room was standing.

While some people volunteer year after year for specific positions, many members just jump in where necessary when they see that someone needs help or something needs doing. I find that inspiring. It means that CWA members aren't just members in name only, but are dedicated to making the organization work and are willing to do what they need to do to make that happen.

It's this dedication that makes our conference such a success year after year. It's that dedication that is going to keep this organization strong year after year. Editors, writers, photographers, artists—the membership of CWA is diverse and talented, but none of that means much if members aren't willing to work for the organization.

So, huge thanks to all the volunteers, and, if you've never volunteered, but think this year is your year, let me know. There's plenty of work to go around. Just be sure to specify your chocolate preference. ♥



Su Ewing steps up to lead the CWA & she's all smiles at our 2009 Conference as the "chocolate years" begin.



Three MEOWS for Everyone

Who Paid CWA Dues — Thank You!

If you still need to renew your membership, it's not too late....

By Wendy Christensen, CWA Secretary

The Secretary wishes to thank all CWA members who paid their dues before the deadline (or just a teensy bit late!) this year. For the first time ever, over two-thirds of our members paid their dues *before* the deadline of December 31, 2009! Congratulations and thanks for your great cooperation. It makes my job much easier! You'll be receiving your 2010 CWA membership cards and 2010 Directories very soon.

If you are one of the VERY few members who have NOT renewed — and still want to — please pay your dues right away. (Email the Secretary at christensen@catlas.mv.com to find out how.) ♥

Quarterly Quotes

"Be a friend not only to your cat, but to all living things."

— Princess Kitty® 'The Smartest Cat in the World'

"Love is the beginning, the middle, and the end of everything."

— Father Jean-Baptiste-Henri Dominique Lacordaire



2009 CWA SPECIAL AWARD 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 article “Let’s See Some ID” (CAT FANCY).**

JUDGE: Vickie Fisher, President of The International Cat Association (TICA): “I liked the writing style. The flow and organization of the piece [were] excellent. It was filled with good information and research.” ~ \$1000 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 Christine Rosenblat & Paul Glassner for their article “Good Medicine for Saving Lives.”** *JUDGE: Carin A. Smith, DVM, Smith Veterinary Consulting: “One might ask, ‘What does shelter housing have to do with innovation in medicine?’ The fact that this is a new thought is precisely why it is innovative. Shelter medicine is a growing field, and the well-being of cats is the focus of much new dialogue and research in veterinary medicine.... This article highlights one of the most innovative groups in the shelter medicine field, giving specific examples of new ideas and approaches in feline care.” ~ The award consists of \$500. ~*

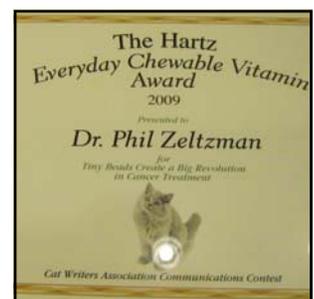


THE FANCY FEAST® LOVE STORY AWARD, sponsored by Purina, is presented to the entrant who best captures the magic of the loving relationship between cats and their owners. ~ **Awarded to Paul Glassner for his article “First-Time Fosterer” (OUR ANIMALS).** *JUDGE: Mim Carlson, Executive Director, Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society: “[This] truly is a love story of a foster parent and the kittens he ultimately adopts after the guilt of handing them back to the shelter for surgery and adoption. It is very educational regarding the trials and tribulations of being a foster parent and caring for sick, young kittens. Technically it is quite accurate. It is very well-written and entertaining.” ~ \$500 and a crystal heart ~*

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 Nancy Reeves, editor of the [UNITED BURMESE CAT FANCIERS] UBCF NEWSLETTER.** *JUDGE: Pia Silvani, Director of Training and Behavior, St. Hubert’s Animal Welfare Center, Madison, NJ: “I found this newsletter to be extremely informative, educational, entertaining, and very thorough. Each volume contained a different topic and the amount of information offered in each issue was outstanding. This newsletter is useful not only to Burmese breed fanciers but [also to] shelter workers, pet owners, and rescue groups.” ~ \$500 and a commemorative item ~*

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 Cimeron Morrissey.** *JUDGE: Ilona Rodan, DVM, ABVP, Cat Care Clinic, Madison, WI: “Excellent information on supporting feral cats in every way so many become adoptable. She encourages volunteers to help so feral cats are more socialized and trained. She also addresses the economic concerns of keeping cats.” ~ \$500 and a 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 Phil Zeltzman, DVM, DACVS, for his article “Tiny Beads Create a Big Revolution in Cancer Treatment.”** *JUDGE: Sally Perea, DVM, MS, DACVN: “This piece was easy to read, interesting, and educational. I thought the writing style had an easy flow and the tone was encouraging even when addressing the sensitive subject of cancer in elderly pets.” ~ \$1000 and a commemorative plaque ~*



2009 CWA SPECIAL AWARDS *(continued)*

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 Sandy Robins for her book FABULOUS FELINES: HEALTH AND BEAUTY SECRETS FOR THE PURRFECT CAT.** *JUDGE: Joan Caron, Past Curator Miami Seaquarium, Owner of Software-Mas, Inc.: "This is an all-inclusive book... with a great writing style that was easy to read and entertaining. Almost every other page includes an adorable picture. This book explains current techniques in grooming and prevention of disease, all with the intent to produce a healthier feline."* ~ \$1000 and a commemorative plaque ~



PHOTO BY ROBIN A.F. OLSON
SANDY ROBINS

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 Paul Glassner for his article "First-Time Fosterer."** *JUDGE: Katherine Miller, Assistant Science Advisor and Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist, ASPCA: "I chose this as the winner because it was so engagingly written while being informative which I thought was very important in a magazine article. It is a very good resource for potential kitten fosterers."* ~ \$1000 and a commemorative plaque ~



PHOTO BY BETSY STOWE

ELISSA WOLFSON

THE KATHRYN HOPPER "FRITZ-THE-BRAVE" AWARD, sponsored by friends of Kathryn Hopper, including members of the Feline Asthma Inhaled Medications (FAIM) group, is awarded to the best single article or column, or single radio or television broadcast on the topic of feline respiratory disease. ~ **Awarded to Elissa Wolfson for her article "Sammy the Survivor" (CATNIP).** *JUDGE: Phil Padrid, DVM, Southwest Medical Director, Veterinary Centers of America: "This piece is a clear winner in all categories. A wonderful article. Excellent in every way."* ~ The award consists of \$500.

THE KARI WINTERS RESCUE AND REHABILITATION AWARD, sponsored by The International Cat Association (TICA) is awarded to the best single article or column, or single radio or television broadcast on the rescue and rehabilitation of cats or kittens from shelters or rescue groups for the purpose of adoption. ~ **Awarded to Paul Glassner for his article "First-Time Fosterer" (OUR ANIMALS).** *JUDGE: Jeanine Patterson, Director, Albuquerque Animal Services: "'First-Time Fosterer' is my choice as the winner. It was easy and fun to read, very informative and educational. And it made me smile while reading it!"* ~ \$500 and a plaque ~



Susan Little, DVM, and Darlene Arden hold the Winn Foundation Media Appreciation Award, bestowed posthumously to celebrate the achievements of Honoree **Kari Winters**.



PHOTO BY ROBIN A.F. OLSON

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 Fran Pennock Shaw for her article "Deciphering Cat Chat" (CATNIP).** *JUDGE: Melissa Bain, DVM, MS, DACVB.* ~ \$1000 and a commemorative certificate ~

(continued on the next page)

2009 CWA SPECIAL AWARDS *(continued)*

THE PURINA® PEDIGREED CATS AWARD is presented writer or creator of the best entry of the year that focuses on cat breeds, pedigreed cats, and professional breeder issues. ~ **Awarded to Nancy Reeves, Editor of UBCF NEWSLETTER.** *JUDGE: Alyce Wolford, DVM, Animal Hospital at Mid Valley, Carmel, CA: "Every issue was consistently outstanding. Each issue presented the information clearly and accurately without becoming overly technical."* ~ \$500 and a commemorative bowl ~



THE PURINA® CAT CHOW® NUTRITION AWARD is given for the best column or article or book on the subject of feline nutrition. ~ **Awarded to Kim Thornton for her article "Nutrition for a Happy, Healthy Cat" (CAT FANCY).** *JUDGE: Kathy Hamman, Creative Services, Inc., Plateau Books: "This article is interesting [and] well-written and uses very good sources. I appreciated the use of additional Internet sites for more information. Good job."* ~ \$500 and a commemorative pewter bowl ~



THE PURINA® ONE® HEALTH AWARD is for the outstanding single article reporting on feline health issues. ~ **Awarded to Elissa Wolfson for her article "Sammy the Survivor" (CATNIP)** *JUDGE: John P. (Jack) Aldridge, DVM, Director of Veterinary Services, SF/SPCA: "The author's voice is appealing, logical, engaging, and never forced. The story defining the medical condition in question is presented in a well-organized fashion and draws in the curious, just as do our challenging clinical cases. The language and degree of scientific information is appropriate for a wide range of readers, from casual cat lovers to veterinary medical professionals. And, finally, it highlighted sophisticated yet practical modern veterinary diagnostics and therapy in an approachable way."* ~ \$500 and a commemorative pewter bowl ~

PHOTO BY ROBIN A.F. OLSON

THE PURINA® KITTEN CHOW® KITTEN AWARD is presented to the author of the outstanding entry on caring for kittens. ~ **Awarded to Paul Glassner for his article "First-Time Fosterer" (OUR ANIMALS).** *JUDGE: Kitty Angell, Writer/Editor, CFA Judge: "There were several things about this piece that make it the best. First, it flows. It reads easily and the prose has an almost poetry-like quality. Second, it is not redundant. Once, well-said, and that's that. Third, the writer has done the research and has the expertise to write intelligently about the subject. He gives the reader a huge bonus with a well-thought-out ending that sums up the entire reason for the story. A random act of kindness paid forward gives even greater reward. This is an exceptional story. I can't wait for the movie!"* ~ \$500 and a commemorative pewter bowl ~

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 Helen Jablonski for her article "Kitten Behavior 101" (CAT FANCY).** *JUDGE: Mindy Bough, Senior Director of Client Services, Midwest Office, ASPCA: "A great training overview for new kitten parents.... This educational piece provides practical, step-by-step advice on relevant topics [and] provides the reader with interesting information that helps the reader know what to expect from kittens. When pet parents know what to expect and how to train early on in the relationship with their new pet, the bond is enhanced, often leading to better interactions throughout the pet's life."* ~ \$1000 and a commemorative certificate ~



THE TIDY CATS® FELINE BEHAVIOR AWARD, sponsored by Purina, is presented for the best entry on the subject of feline behavior. ~ **Awarded to Arden Moore for her article "The Lowdown on Litterbox Issues, Part 1 & 2" (Examiner.com).** *JUDGE: Drew Weigner, DVM, ABVP, The Cat Doctor: "Every year, the bar is raised higher and higher. Most entries were excellent, but this one is the best of the best.... The author displays her knowledge and experience in a concise and highly effective format, allowing readers to quickly 'zero in' on the information they need. Demonstrating both compassion and humor when appropriate, the author combines wit and skill with an engaging style."* ~ \$1000 and a commemorative pewter bowl ~

ARDEN MOORE

2009 CWA SPECIAL AWARDS *(continued)*

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 Marta Felber for her book A CAT'S EYE VIEW OF LIFE AND LOVE BY STERLING.** **JUDGE:** *Roberta Lillich, DVM, 2009 President of the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP): "Everyone who has had the opportunity to share their life with a special cat knows the uniqueness of this bond, and the ways in which cats and their people communicate and interact as a result of this relationship. I believe this author did a fantastic job of not only capturing in writing the essence of this relationship but communicating it to others in a way that allowed them to feel the special nature of the relationship, as well."* ~ \$500 and a commemorative pewter bowl ~

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 Betsy Stowe.** *Nomination by Karen Payne: "Betsy's unfailing optimism, positive attitude, encouragement, and support are a tonic for me. I trust her to tell the absolute truth about any issue I place before her. Whenever any important question arises, she readily shares what she knows and offers to lend a hand. She has been an invaluable mentor as I edit and produce MEOW and seek to maintain good relations with CWA members, become familiar with CWA ideals and culture, and promote high standards and organizational harmony through the newsletter. Her dedicated mentoring makes her a worthy recipient of the 2009 Shojai Mentor Award."* ~ \$500 and a commemorative item ~



BETSY STOWE



THE KUYKENDALL IMAGE AWARD, sponsored by CWA, is presented to the outstanding "image" entry featuring cats – whether photography, illustration, or graphic art. ~ **Awarded to Brigitte McMinn, editor of BENGALS ILLUSTRATED.** **JUDGE:** *Karen "Doc" Halligan, DVM: "I felt that Bengals Illustrated had the best illustrations, photos, and writing of all the entries submitted, and I chose this entry as an image award winner."* ~ \$250 and a commemorative item ~



THE 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 Su Ewing for her publication CATS! TRAIN YOUR OWNERS!: 50 FELINE TRAINING FLASH CARDS (Cider Mill Press).** **JUDGE:** *CWA President Amy Shojai: "In an outstanding field of contenders, this entry not only offered a fresh format that made me smile, the content is spot-on accurate and turns learning about cats into a fun game. I was surprised and delighted by this innovative entry."* ~ \$250 and a commemorative item ~

"The 2009 contest had over 500 entries and showcased the best of the year's writing, broadcasting, and photography centered on felines," said Nancy Marano, Contest Chair. **"We hope the 2010 contest will have even more entries."**

Sincerest Congratulations to all the 2009 Winners!

2009 CWA Communication Contest Muse Medallion™ & Certificate of Excellence Winners



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

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

* = Winner of Muse Medallion™

I.1 – Monthly Magazine, National Circulation

*Susan Logan/CAT FANCY

“The consummate cat publication. Great job. Good mix of human interest, behavior and medical information. A pleasure to read every article. Something for everyone from the kiddies to the adult ailurophile. The flipbook issue was a great idea.”

I.2 – Magazine – Regional

*Paul Glassner/OUR ANIMALS

“The stories are appealing in content and well written. While targeting a specific community, they definitely have appeal further afield. The layouts are simple but very appealing.”

I.3 – Magazine Article – Health and General Care

*Fran Pennock Shaw/Combat Heartworm (CAT FANCY)

*Kim Thornton/Kittenproof Your Home (KITTENS USA)

Steve Dale/Microchip Your Cat (CAT FANCY)

Sandra Murphy/Have You Seen the Cat? (FELINE WELLNESS)

Nancy Peterson/Keeping Feral Cats Healthy (ANIMAL SHELTERING)

Arnold Plotnick, DVM/The Heart of the Matter (CAT FANCY)

Rebecca Sweat/Nutrition Trends (CAT FANCY)

“A lot of good, important topics were submitted in this category and addressed well.”

I.4 – Magazine Article – Behavior and Training

*Nancy Peterson/The Way to Tame a Feral Kitten’s Heart (ANIMAL SHELTERING)

“This writer has a relaxed style which invites the reader to continue, and the article is well researched.”

I.5 – Magazine Article – Any Other Topic

*Julie Falconer/Prowling the Divide (ANIMAL SHELTERING)

Laura Lee Bloor/Cats Are Good for You (CAT FANCY)

Andrea Dorn/Can Cats Predict Earthquakes? (CAT FANCY)

Janiss Garza/How Virtual Fundraising Saves Animal Lives (CAT FANCY)

Stacy N. Hackett/What Is a Pedigree? (CATS U.S.A. 2009)

Cheryl Kitchell/Miracle of a Cover Cat (CAT FANCY)

Brad Kollus/A Calming Presence (CAT FANCY)

Cimeron Morrissey/A Gift of Love (CAT FANCY)

Cimeron Morrissey/Pedigrees in the Pound (CAT FANCY)

Paulina Olsen/The Library Cat (CAT FANCY)

Nancy Peterson/Saving Oreo (ANIMAL SHELTERING)

Sandy Robins/The Cats of Polsmoor Prison (CAT FANCY)

Sandy Robins/A Mission of Love (CAT FANCY)

Debbie Waller/Soldier’s Pets (CITY + COUNTRY PETS)

Debra White/A Day for Eeyore (CAT FANCY)

“This was hard. There weren’t enough misses. According to the scoring criteria every one of these could be a winner.”

I.6 – Magazine Column

*Cimeron Morrissey/Foster Focus (CAT FANCY)

Susan Logan/Editor’s Note (CAT FANCY)

Dusty Rainbolt/Dear Hobbes (CITY + COUNTRY PETS)

“Wow! Talented batch of columnists. All with distinctive voices. This columnist possesses a storytelling style and meaty advice. Her message makes a difference in the lives of cats. A heartbreaker.”

II.1 – Newspaper Article – Health and General Care

*Fran Pennock Shaw/Heartworm Disease (LANCASTER SUNDAY NEWS)

Fran Pennock Shaw/Only One with a Cold (INTELLIGENCER JOURNAL – LANCASTER)

“Most people think of dogs when it comes to heartworm disease, but this article has a strong reference to heartworm and cats. It offered clear and informative inspiration. Nice work, Fran.”

II.2 – Newspaper Article – Behavior & Training

*Sally Bahner/What Worked for Rainy (PETS PRESS)

II.3 – Newspaper Article – Any Other Topic

*Anthony Nichols/The Father of the Cat Fancy (OUR CATS)

“I enjoyed reading about the father of the cat fancy. Nichols’ interesting and comprehensive article introduced me to Harrison Weir, an important figure in the world of cats. Well done! I shall name my next cat Harrison.”

To EVERY
CWA Honoree:
PURRS!!



2009 Muse Medallion™ Awards *(continued)*

II.4 – Newspaper Column

***Gregory M. Simpson/Sheltering: An Animal's Perspective" (PETS PRESS)**

Wendy Christensen/Creature Comforts (MONADNOCK LEDGER-TRANSCRIPT)

Arden Moore/Paws Up for Pets (TODAY'S LOCAL NEWS)

Anthony Nichols/A Beginner's Guide to Cat Genetics (OUR CATS)

Amy Shojai/PetiQuette (HERALD DEMOCRAT)

("He is a tasteful writer. It's so easy to become maudlin and shrill when writing about the loss of a pet. Simpson is personally involved with the story – but not in a sobby way. It makes one want to stay involved with his work. Absolutely a class act!")

III.1 – Newsletter – Breed Specific

***Brigitte McMinn/BENGALS ILLUSTRATED**

Beryl Peters & Melody Amundson/DRBC NEWSLETTER

("Outstanding newsletter. Beautiful to look at, excellent articles. Wonderful photos. Good mix of sections and articles. Excellent combination of information for the seasoned breeder and novice. A definite winner.")

III.2 – Newsletter – National Circulation

***Arden Moore/CATNIP**

("This newsletter presents cat research and the resultant understanding couldn't be better. Make the Muse already.")

III.3 – Newsletter – Regional or Membership Circulation

***Cimeron Morrissey/CAT TALES**

("Great layout. Good information presented in a professional and lively manner. Good use of photos. The message of Cat Tales was consistent throughout and the articles were quite interesting.")

III.4 – Newsletter Article – Health and General Care

***Elissa Wolfson/Cats and Babies (CATNIP)**

Louise Holton/Dental Disease in Cats (ALLEY CAT MEWS)

Dusty Rainbolt/Catering to Cats with Special Needs (CATNIP)

Dusty Rainbolt/Feline Dental Products (CATNIP)

Nancy Reeves/Understanding Feline Infectious Peritonitis: An Interview with Niels C. Pedersen (UCBF NEWSLETTER)

Fran Shaw/Curbing Congestion in Cats (CATNIP)

Fran Shaw/Help for Flaky Felines (CATNIP)

Fran Shaw/Researchers Focus on Feline Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma (PURINA® PRO CLUB® UPDATE)

Amy Shojai/Significance of Sterilizing Cats & Spotlight on Non-Surgical Steps (CATNIP)

Kim Thornton/Feline Ear Problems (CATNIP)

Kim Thornton/Fit Felines (CATNIP)

Kim Thornton/Update on Feline Pancreatitis (CATNIP)

Elissa Wolfson/Vision Quest: Experts Discuss Entropion and Glaucoma in Cats (CATNIP)

Elissa Wolfson/Sammy the Survivor (CATNIP)

("Wolfson's personal experience, delightful photos, and sidebar provide a thorough look at the topic of safety measures for expectant mothers who own cats. The article is reassuring.")

III.5 – Newsletter Article – Behavior and Training

***Arnold Plotnick, DVM/Do Cats Grieve? (CATNIP)**

III.6 – Newsletter Article – Other Topics

***Kim Thornton/The Lion in Your Lap (CATNIP)**

Bruce Adams/Cat Encounters (OUR ANIMALS)

Mike Friese/His Loss, My Gain (CATNIP)

Paul Glassner/First-Time Fosterer (OUR ANIMALS)

Fran Shaw/Deciphering Cat Chat (CATNIP)

Amy Shojai/Feline ID (CATNIP)

Kim Thornton/Blind But Adaptable (CATNIP)

("Great writing and interesting information. I enjoyed the personalized perspective. A difficult pleasure to choose the best.")

III.7 – Newsletter Column

***Arden Moore/Editor's Note (CATNIP)**

("A distinctive column woven with useful information and cat characters. Clever references such as 'CEO' for 'Cat Extra-Ordinaire' make the pieces more appealing.")

***Nancy Reeves/UCBF Newsletter Column, UCBF NEWSLETTER**

("It took courage to disclose FIP in her cattery but, ultimately, the columnist's honesty and suggestions will protect future generations of all cats.")

IV.1 – Short Story

***Clea Simon/Dumb Beasts (DEAD FALL: CRIME STORIES BY NEW ENGLAND WRITERS)**

("This story is imaginative and compelling. The narrator's voice is distinctive and she's totally believable.")

IV.2 – Poem

***Lesléa Newman/Old Girl (NOBODY'S MOTHER)**

(Really touching. An event all cat owners can relate to yet unique and heartfelt in the telling.... The reader can feel the 20 years these two have shared.)

IV.3 – Humor – no winners

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

***Nancy Peterson/I Am Not a Crazy Cat Lady (The Humane Society of the United States)**

("A delightful plea for advocacy. Innovative and creative. Absolutely great thinking.")

IV.5 – Annual or Long Publication

***Su Ewing/CATS! TRAIN YOUR OWNER!: 50 FELINE TRAINING FLASH CARDS (Cider Mill Press)**

("Excellent information imparted effortlessly. Incredibly creative idea. Great fun.")

To EVERY
CWA Honoree:
HEADBUTTS!!



(continued on the next page)

2009 Muse Medallion™ Awards *(continued)*

IV.6 – Opinion Piece, Essay or Editorial

*Nancy Reeves/The Health of the Breed (UBCF NEWSLETTER)

Joanne Anderson/Positive Shelter Changes (BABYLON BEACON)

“Excellent, with great information. This piece concisely explains a very real and pressing situation. It candidly shows a personal – and potentially professionally damaging experience – and ends [with] a clear call to others.”

V.1 – Books – Fiction

*Shirley Rousseau Murphy/CAT PLAYING CUPID (William Morrow)

Clea Simon/PROBABLE CLAWS: A THEDA KRAKOW MYSTERY (Poisoned Pen Press)

“The author knows how to end each chapter in order to keep the reader going. Even though this is one of a series, it stands on its own quite nicely.”

V.2 – Books for Children – no winners

*Dandi Dailey Mackall/STARLIGHT ANIMAL RESCUE (Tyndale House Publications)

“This novel for middle-graders handles several difficult topics with sensibility, insight, depth, and gentle humor. This book had heart with well-drawn and consistent characters. It never crosses the line into greeting card sentimentality.”

V.3 – Books – Health and General Care

*Sheila Webster Boneham/THE MULTIPLE CAT FAMILY (TFH Publications)

Carol Frischmann/PETS AND THE PLANET: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO SUSTAINABLE PET CARE (Howell/Wiley)

Sandy Robins/FABULOUS FELINES: HEALTH AND BEAUTY SECRETS FOR THE PAMPERED CAT (TFH Publications)

“In all my years of CWA judging this is the toughest category I’ve ever done. What a terrific selection of books. I found this book to be a purrfect book. With the photos, sidebars, illustrations, etc., it was very readable and would be helpful to all ages from middle school to adult.”

V.4 – Books – Training and Behavior – no winners

V.5 – Gift Book – no winners

V.6 – Books – Poetry – no winners

V.7 – Other Books

*Rosie Sorenson/THEY HAD ME AT MEOW (Buster Hollow Productions)

“A beautiful little jewel of a book: wonderful stories, valuable information about feral cats, and just the right touch of humor to spice things up. If this book doesn’t prompt you to care for an abandoned cat or kitten, than I fear for your humanity. If I could award more points, I would.”

VI.1 – Video, DVD, or Television Production

*Amy Shojai/Pet Talk: Allergies, Toxoplasmosis, Flea Product Safety (PetLifeRadio.com)

VI.2 – Radio or Other Audio Presentation – Mixed Format

– no winners

VI.3 – Radio or Other Audio Presentation – Guest

Interview

*Amy Shojai/Pet Peeves: Cat-egorically Wrong! Cats, Babies, Myth-takes (PetLifeRadio.com)

Arden Moore/Oh Behave! – Dr. Debra Horwitz (PetLifeRadio)

Arden Moore/Oh Behave! – Dr. Sophia Yin (PetLifeRadio)

Amy Shojai/Pet Peeves: A Foundation of Love – Morris Animal Foundation (PetLifeRadio)

Amy Shojai/Pet Peeves: Cat-astrophe! Adopt-A-Cat Month (PetLifeRadio)

Amy Shojai/Pet Peeves: Deadly Beauty, Part 2: Cat Breeding for Health (PetLifeRadio)

“Amy is such a great interviewer. Her shows are consistently interesting and informational. She shows her vast experience with cats and other pets. Her program made me want to run to a shelter and adopt another cat. Her mission to debunk myths shines through all her entries.”

VI.4 – Radio or Other Audio Presentation – Call-In Show

Format – no winners

VI.5 – Radio or Other Audio Presentation – Mixed Format

– no winners

VII.1 – Online Magazine, Newsletter, or Website

*Mary Anne Miller/www.felinexpress.com

“Felinexpress.com easily downloaded even for this dial-up user. The design was clean and uncluttered.”

VII.2 – Online Article – Health and General Care

*Sandy Robins/Cats and Toddlers (BringPetsHome.com)

Helen Jablonski/Top 10 Litterbox Tips (CatChannel.com)

Arden Moore/Hyperthyroidism Is a Sneaky Disease That Strikes Cats (Examiner.com)

Sandra Toney/Pets Have Allergies Too! (Petside.com)

“This has a good combination of expert advice and narratives. This cat-centered Dr. Phil speaks even more clearly than the TV Dr. Phil.”

VII.3 – Online Article – Behavior and Training

*Amy Shojai/Claw Training 101 (Shojai.com)

Arden Moore/Cats, dogs and phones – pet etiquette advice (Examiner.com)

Arden Moore/The Lowdown on Litter Box Issues – Part 1 & 2 (Examiner.com)

Sandra Toney/Curbing Cat Countertop Visits (Petside.com)

“Decisively the best choice. It offered inventive and practical solutions, some of which even I as a certified behavior consultant had not considered. Bravo!”

To EVERY
CWA Honoree:
THREE MEOWS!!



2009 Muse Medallion™ Awards *(continued)*

VII.4 – Online Article – Any Other Topic

***Linda Mohr/The Cat’s Mastery of the Present Moment (Artipot.com)**

Karen Nichols/The Cat’s Meow’s Guide to Pet Recovery (Catster, Inc.)

(“This was best from a group of very fine articles.”)

VII.5 – Online Column

***Kim Thornton/Creature Comforts (msnbc.com)**

Arnold Plotnick, DVM/Cat Channel.com Ask the Expert (CatChannel.com)

Amy Shojai/Emotional Health (Catchow.com)

Dusty Rainbolt/Ask Einstein (stickypaws.com)

(“Thornton’s writing skills are superb. She doesn’t bog readers down with trivial details. Rather she focuses on the topic and why the reader should care. Truly exceptional writing and interesting topics.”)

VII.6 – Blog: Single Blog – no winners

VII.7 – Blogs: Regular Blogs

***Suzanne Stowe/Crazy for Cats: Cats Do the Darnedest Things, Are You a Cat Whisperer?, A Most Special Cat (CatChannel.com)**

Judi Basolo/The Guido Gazette: Start Your Day the Guido Way: Pulling Pawsactive Strings, Pressing and Stressing over Water, ComPURRhensively Browsing the Books (The Guido Gazette)

Linda Mohr/Catnip Connection: My Hurricane Kitty, Lexie Lee Survives Hurricane Wilma, The Defender (SeattlePostIntelligencer.com)

Linda Mohr/Catnip Connection: Cats and Tinsel, Cats + Christmas Trees + Climbing = Disaster, Chip ‘n Dip Cat (SeattlePostIntelligencer.com)

Karen Nichols/The Cat’s Meow: How to Win the World’s Coolest Cat Contest, Stroller Buying Guide, Meet Guido the Italian Kitty (Catster, Inc.)

(“This is a well organized and endearing blog. It is something I want to read on a regular basis.”)

VIII.1 – Black and White Photograph (single)

***Arden Moore/Race for the Food Bowl (CATNIP)**

Weems Hutto/Best Friends (CATNIP)

Arden Moore/Feline Twister (CATNIP)

(“[The] photo captures the three cats’ fast break to the food bowl in slow motion. Almost a photo finish, but, no, it’s the black cat by a nose!”)

VIII.2 - Black and White Photograph (series) – no winners

VIII.3 – Color Photograph (single)

***Dr. Monica Shepherd/Frankie Meets Her Shadow (OUR ANIMALS)**

Helmi Flick/LaPerm Poster (CAT FANCY)

Mark Rogers/Samantha (OUR ANIMALS)

Fran Shaw/You’re Not The Only One With a Cold

(INTELLIGENCER JOURNAL – LANCASTER)

Preston Smith/Calico Cornish Rex Poster (CAT FANCY)

Preston Smith/Turkish Angora Poster Spread (CAT FANCY)

Sandra Toney/Lilly Reflects on Life (WINN FELINE FOUNDATION AT 40)

(“It told a story. The image stayed with me for days.

Adorable! Intriguing lighting. It’s so uniquely the essence of kitten.”)

VIII.4 - Color Photograph (series)

***Janiss Garza/Sparkle the Designer Cat 2009 Calendar Café Press)**

(“Artistry and technical quality support the photo content in creating a story of the cat’s temperament and habit. This pretty much stole the show. The lighting in each shot was especially well done. I would score this higher if I could. Absolute perfection. Congratulations!”)

VIII.5 – Cartoon

***Stephanie Piro/20 Cats (King Features)**

Stephanie Piro/Mother’s Day (King Features)

Stephanie Piro/Tiny Kitten (King Features)

(“All very original with wide appeal to a cat-loving audience. She definitely captures the fun but chaotic feel of a multi-cat home.”)

VIII.6 – Illustration (single) – no winners

VIII.7 – Illustrations (series)

***Michael Sleep/Purrlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Treasure (Feline Press)**

(“With a single meow or bark, the illustrations help tell the story in this fine feline mystery.”)

To EVERY
CWA Honoree:
Paws Up!!



*Warmest Congratulations to All the 2009 Honorees!
And, sincere thanks to all the judges and sponsors
who make our annual contest possible!*

Thankful Purrs to Our 2009 CWA Sponsors!

 We Couldn't Do What We Do ... without a LOT of Help from Our Friends! 

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

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5580 Centerview Drive Suite 250, Raleigh, NC 27606

ASPCA: Friday reception, Saturday luncheon

Claire McCabe, Manager, Marketing (clairem@aspc.org)
Marion Lane, Special Projects Manager (marionl@earthlink.net)
520 8th Avenue, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10018

CAT FANCIERS' ASSOCIATION: CWA President's Award and general sponsor

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

Christine A. Bellezza, DVM
Co-Director, Cornell Feline Health Center (cab37@cornell.edu)
S3111 Schurmann Hall, College of Veterinary Medicine
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853

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: Fort Dodge Special Award

Kelly Goss, Communications Manager (GOSSK@fdah.com)
Fort Dodge Animal Health
9225 Indian Creek Parkway, Suite 400, Overland Park, KS 66210

HARTZ MOUNTAIN CORPORATION: membership breakfast, 3 Hartz Special Awards, refreshments, totes, and general conference sponsor

Bob Shipley, Marketing Department (bshiple@hartz.com)
Kim Cassar, director of animal health, (KCassar@hartz.com)
400 Plaza Drive, Secaucus, NJ 07094

MERIAL: Merial Special Award

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

MORRIS ANIMAL FOUNDATION: Co-sponsor Friday dinner and general 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

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7262 N. Rosemead Boulevard, San Gabriel, CA 91775

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Susan Green, Specialist, Shelter Outreach (susan@petfinder.com)
Petfinder.com, P.O. Box 394, Spencer NY 14883

PET SITTERS INTERNATIONAL: Networking sponsor

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: Friday night speaker, Saturday night reception, Folios

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 7 Special Awards

Jadea Abolahrari, Marketing Public Relations
(jadea.abolahrari@purina.nestle.com)
Nestlé Purina PetCare Company, 1034 Danforth Drive,
St. Louis, MO 63102

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Swanson Russell Associates, Public Relations Counsel
14301 FNB Parkway, Suite 312, Omaha, NE 68154-5299

AMY SHOJAI: Shojai Mentor Award

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

THE INTERNATIONAL CAT ASSOCIATION (TICA) Kari Winter Award

Vickie Fisher, President (conquest@gmail.com)
139 Palacio, Corrales, NM 87048

WESTCHESTER FELINE CLUB Autograph Party

Mike Dentico, President
74 S. Lilburn Drive, Garnerville, NY 10923
Leslie Masson, American Dream Promotions (Lmasson@verizon.net)
American Dream Promotions, Inc., 1638 Hyatt Avenue,
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Jean Broders, Marketing Manager
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**TAKE TIME TO WRITE AND
THANK THESE SPECIAL FOLKS!**

CWA CONFERENCE GAZETTE



PHOTO BY BETSY STOWE

Congratulations to those who received Service Certificates:

Lynette Cook (retiring CWA Awards Banquet Program Chair)
Kim Thornton (retiring CWA Vice President, 2008-2009)

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

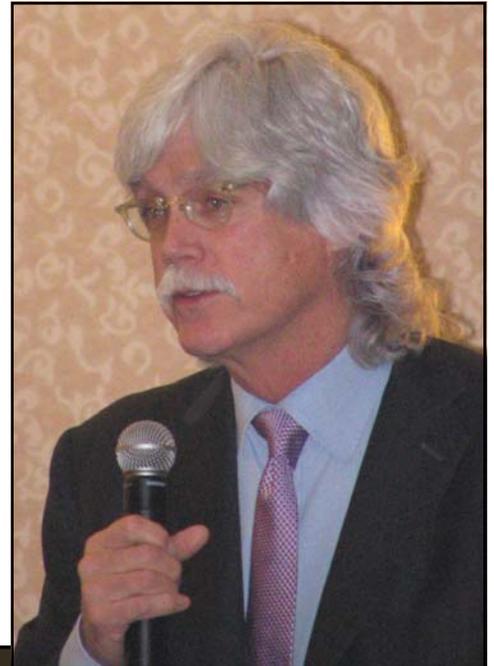


PHOTO BY BETSY STOWE

Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, DVM, Ph.D., Diplomate ACVP, and star of Animal Planet's *Emergency Vets*, displayed his considerable talent as a stand-up comic at our Friday night dinner. His Irish background, family foibles, and veterinary adventures were grist for the humor mill, and he kept us all laughing.

Dr. Leslie Lyons, Ph.D., associate professor at UC-Davis, reviewed her ground-breaking research into cat genetics, which is opening up new perspectives on cat health.



PHOTO BY ROBIN A.F. OLSON



All that hard work paid off: *Cat Fancy* Editor **Susan Logan** shows off her Muse Medallion® for best national magazine.



Autograph/Book Signing Committee Chair **Lyn Garson** (left), here with committee member **Carole Stevens Bibisi**, arranged a display that drew a lot of attention at the Westchester Cat Show.

Be there for this exciting event at the 2010 Cat Writer's Conference in White Plains, NY!

CWA ELECTION RESULTS

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Paul Glassner
 Heike Hagenguth
 Arden Moore

*Resigned in 2010; Fran Pennock Shaw is Interim Treasurer

MORE PRIZEWINNERS!!

Roberta Beach Jacobson was the winner of the **Premier Pet Products Scholarship Award**. The runners-up (among 28 entries) were Ramona Marek, Betsy Stowe, and Lynette Cook. ~ \$500 to be applied toward the costs of attending the 2010 conference, where the prize will be presented. ~

The **Comfort Zone® with Feliway® Membership Bounty Prize** resulted in a tie: Deb Eldredge, Susan Logan, and Dusty Rainbolt each sponsored three new members. A drawing gave Deb Eldredge the prize. ~\$500 ~

Barbara Stein received a \$500 check at the conference for the **Premier Pet Products Scholarship Award** that she won last year.

DOOR PRIZES, COURTESY OF:

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

* = Raffle Prize

+ = New Participant

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jennifer.couillez@munchkin.com
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Barbara Stretton*

b.stretton@worldnet.att.net
(*The Case of the Purloined Persian & The Case of the Tiberian Tiger*)

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www.bernadette-k.com
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Janine Fuchs, Executive Admin. Assistant
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Denver, CO 80231
hjeter@morrisanimalfoundation.org
www.morrisanimalfoundation.org
(pens)

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Petfinder.com

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www.Petfinder.com
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(pens and keychain lights)

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(*They Had Me at Meow* book & Cats of Buster
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(cat hammock)

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(*Six Chix* cartoon print)

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Kimberly Cassar
400 Plaza Drive
Secaucus, NJ 07094
KCassar@hartz.com
www.hartz.com
(dental treats, tote bags, Hartz Nodor™ litter
spray)

The Pampered Kitty*/+

Jan Raffaele
473 Queen Anne Road
Harwich, MA 02645
Ferals18@msn.com
www.thepamperedkitty.com
(handmade holiday stocking & cat toys)

The Refined Feline*/+

Josh Feinkind, Owner
RefinedKind Pet Products
342 East 55th Street, Suite 2D
New York, NY 10022
JoshF@RefinedKind.com
www.therefinedefeline.com
(Kitt-In Box™ – a cat bed that attaches to the
side of a desk)

T.J. Banks*

dawntreader@earthlink.net
(small gift items)

Winn Feline Foundation+

Janet Wolf, Executive Director
293 Landing Rd.
Newport, NJ 08345
Winnfeline@aol.com
www.winnfelinehealth.org
(40th anniversary books & magnets)

Wool and Kashmir*/+

Sharon M. Hartnett, Owner/Designer
351 S. 12th Street
San Jose, CA 95112
info@WoolAndKashmir.com
www.WoolAndKashmir.com
(Custom-knit Wool and Kashmir Sleeping Bag
Bed)

World's Best Cat Litter™

Jean Broders, Marketing Manager
GPC Pet Products
1600 Oregon Street
Muscatine, IA 52761
jean.broders@worldsbestlitter.com
www.worldsbestcatlitter.com/
(tote bags)

**CWA WRITERS, remember to thank our purr-ific donors
for giving us (and our cats!) the chance to experience
their excellent products and enjoy their generous gifts!**

Cat Writers' Association Conference EARLY BIRD SPONSORS for 2010

Cat Fanciers' Association (General Conference Sponsor and President's Award)

Cornell Feline Health Center (Special Award)

Merial (Special Award)

PETCO Foundation (General Conference Sponsor)

Petfinder.com (General Conference Sponsor and Special Award)

Premier Pet Products (Scholarship)

Amy D. Shojai (Special Award)

Sincere thanks for your commitment to CWA!

~ EXCITING CWA SEMINARS INFORM & INSPIRE ~



Veteran journalist **Arden Moore** discussed and demonstrated the fine art of interviewing.



Technology consultant and *Geek Gap* author **Bill Pfliegling** told how to build web sites and use social networking.



PHOTO BY BETSY STOWE

Professor **Marion Nestle** of New York University laid out all the facts about pet food politics, the subject of her latest book.



PHOTO BY BETSY STOWE

Peter Shankman, the founder of Help a Reporter Out, is recognized worldwide for innovative thinking and social media expertise; he shared his insights, new technology, and must-have, hi-tech gadgets.



Mystery writer **Clea Simon** enthralled her audience with advice about plots, character development, and how to succeed as a writer.



Sharon Sakson, author and TV producer, revealed the secrets of making successful pitches to editors, something we all need to know.



PHOTO BY BETSY STOWE

"My Angels have four legs," says **David Frei**, the "Voice of Westminster" and an expert on animal-assisted therapy, who shared smiles and tears.



Marion Lane, special projects editor for the ASPCA, gave tips for writing and selling those compelling opinion essays.



PHOTO BY BETSY STOWE

Lea-Ann Germinder, APR, Fellow PRSA, gave us the scoop on how to get publicity and use social media to create buzz for our publishing projects.



PHOTO BY BETSY STOWE

Award-winning writer **Linda Kay Weber-Hardie** revealed how to succeed in crossing the blurry lines that only seem to separate fiction, nonfiction, and memoirs.



PHOTO BY BETSY STOWE

Patricia Fry, author of 29 books and president of SPAWN, told how to break into other genres and how to publish and sell your books.



PHOTO BY BETSY STOWE

Mary A. Shafer proved that promotion is just as important to a writer as writing, and she showed exactly how it's done.



Minda Zetlin, VP of the ASJA and author of *Telecommuting for Dummies*, explained the ticklish subject of rights and contracts.

Make Plans to Attend the Fantastic 2010 CWA Conference!

By CWA President Susan M. Ewing

November 2010 may seem far away, but it will be here before you know it, and that means another terrific Cat Writers' Association conference, our 17th.

Once again, we'll be meeting in White Plains, New York, with the conference held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The conference dates will be November 18-21, which is the weekend before Thanksgiving – so, save those dates!

Once again, we'll partner with the Westchester Cat Show (www.westchester-feline.org), a TICA event held November 20-21 (Saturday and Sunday) at Westchester County Center. There'll be a book-signing event again this year, although the format may change a bit from 2009. Lyn Garson has once again agreed to coordinate this event. Carole Stevens Bibisi helped Lyn at last year's conference, and they both put in many, many hours. If you'd like to help with this endeavor, please contact Lyn (LynGarson@cox.net).

It's not too early to make your reservations, either. We have a limited number of rooms available to us at \$119 per night, but after October 29, the rates go back up to \$179 per

night. Find yourself a roommate and reserve your room now!

You can go online at www.crowneplaza.com/whiteplainsny, call toll-free 1-800-2-CROWNE (1-800-227-6963), or call 1-914-682-0050. The code for our conference is, appropriately, CAT.

This past year, as members requested, the conference had more seminars on technical, web-related topics, including setting up your own web page and learning to use social sites such as Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter. For the 2010 CWA event, Vice President Dusty Rainbolt has already lined up several exceptional speakers, some of them very different from any we've ever had. Stay tuned for more on that.

Also, remember that while specific committees or job designations may have a name listed, that doesn't mean that you can't also volunteer. Your suggestions and willingness to work are what makes CWA such a strong organization. Please, either contact people directly, or send me a message and I'll pass it on. I look forward to seeing you at the 2010 CWA Conference! ♥

2009 PANEL PHOTOS



Vet/Industry Panel: (L to R) Susan Little, DVM, Carol Frischman (author of *Pets and the Planet*), Susan Logan (*Cat Fancy*), Kimberly Cassar (Hartz), and moderator Darlene Arden (inset) addressed today's burning issues in feline veterinary medicine.



Publishing Panel: (L to R) Hope Schultz (Webvet.com), Susan Logan (*Cat Fancy*), Kate Epstein (Epstein Literary Agency), and moderator Beth Adelman talked about ways to get your work published.

Photo by BETSY STOWE



Photo by BETSY STOWE

Children's Book Panel: (L to R) Moderator Barbara Stretton, author Linda Kay Weber-Hardie, Sparky's owner Rick Arruzza, photographer Brian Stanton, bestselling author Matthew Van Fleet, and illustrator Lisa Desimini shared their publishing pointers.

Cat Writers' Association 2010 Conference Ideas Questionnaire

I did _____ did not _____ attend the 2009 CWA Writers' Conference in White Plains, New York
I plan _____ do not plan _____ to attend the upcoming 2010 CWA Conference in White Plains, New York

Which of the following seminar topics would you most like to see in 2010? Choose up to 10 topics, and rate them numerically, with #1 being your first preference.

- ___ Finding Out What Editors Want
- ___ Social Networking for Writers
- ___ Using Story-Telling Techniques to Improve Your Writing
- ___ Designing Your Own Webpage/Benefits of a Webpage
- ___ Behavior Issues/Hot Topics Panel
- ___ Research for Fiction and Nonfiction (sources, organization, how to use it in your work)
- ___ Writing Dialogue That Sings
- ___ Blogging: What It Is, What It Can Do For You
- ___ 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 to not look bad to an editor)
- ___ Best Digital Cameras for Non-Photographers (William Wegman)
- ___ 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 (resources: best books, software, web sites & pet sites; finding good sources; and the benefits of attending conferences)
- ___ Agents
- ___ They Never Forget: Avoiding Agregious Submissions Error (yes, I know there are typos)
- ___ The Serious Business of Writing Humor
- ___ O Come, All Ye Faithful: Writing for Readers of Faith
- ___ Web Writing
- ___ Dealing with Disputes (editors, agents, writing partners, PR departments)
- ___ Promotion
- ___ That's My Story and I'm Sticking to It (fiction)
- ___ Sound Bites That Have Them Coming Back for More: Getting Publicity & Dealing with the Media
- ___ Book Proposals
- ___ Opinions Are Like Trashcans: How to Keep Them Interesting

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 March 15, 2010, to:

Dusty Rainbolt, CWA Vice President

P.O. Box 293413

Lewisville, TX 75029-3413

(Email: dustyrainbolt@pobox.com)

(Please send other comments and suggestions about this year's conference along with this form.)

Your Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone/Email _____

VOLUNTEER TODAY!

By Susan M. Ewing, CWA President

Volunteers are the Key to CWA's Success!

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

Some committee chairs have been named for 2010, but many committees still need chairs and/or members. Your suggestions and input are always welcome. CWA's volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization. In particular, we want 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, or if you are a new volunteer ready to devote some time and talent to CWA, please email Susan at dogwriter@windstream.net as soon as possible.

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! No matter how much or how little you can contribute, CWA needs you. Please email Susan Ewing for information and to volunteer, and she'll get your information to the proper person. ♥

COMMITTEES & CHAIRS (current needs, will soon be updated on web site)

CWA Conference Committee: Susan M. Ewing, Chair; Fran Pennock Shaw, Dusty Rainbolt (Contact Su if interested.)

Awards Banquet Program: OPEN

Conference Brochure: Wendy Christensen

Publicity: Lea-Ann Germinder, Ann Leighton

Writers' Web Sites Liaison: Sandra Toney

Registrations: Sharon Melnyk

Door Prizes: Nancy Peterson

CWA Contest: 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: Heike Hagenguth

Editor/Agent Liaison: Fran Pennock Shaw

Autograph Party/Book Signing: Lyn Garson (at least one committee member must be onsite)

Awards Display: OPEN (attendance at conference required)

Recruitment (for enticing new members): OPEN



ATTENTION: CWA Seeks a Treasurer

To All CWA Members from President Susan M. Ewing:

Effective January 22, 2010, Jill Richardson, DVM, has resigned as CWA treasurer. Jill took over when I left that job in 2007 and we appreciate her years of service. There's a lot more work involved in the job than you might imagine, and with Jill's busy schedule, I'm grateful she lasted this long. Thanks so much for your efforts, Jill.

Fran Shaw, also a former treasurer, and I will be sharing the duties of treasurer until a new treasurer can be appointed by the Council, as directed by the CWA by-laws. If anyone has an interest in the job of treasurer, please get in touch with me. If you have bookkeeping skills, so much the better, but it's not a requirement. Attention to detail and the ability to deal with financial issues in a timely manner are essential.

For now, send renewal checks, requests for reimbursement, and other financial business to me at:

Susan M. Ewing, CWA President

66 Adams Street

Jamestown, NY 14701

dogwriter@windstream.net

CWA COUNCIL OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Online Meetings via Email,
November 30-December 31, 2009

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 Newsletter Editor's stipend at \$800.
- Approved MEOW budget.
- Linda Kay Hardie will chair the Nominating Committee.
- We have no formal grievance policy, and the Council will be discussing this topic this year to formalize the procedure of presenting a grievance to the Council.
- The Council agreed that the President should send a letter to Steve Dale as an apology that his earlier grievance was not addressed in a timely manner.
- Council also discussed ways to recognize long-term volunteers.

CAT WRITERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.
FINANCIAL REPORT NOVEMBER 12, 2008- DECEMBER 31, 2009
 Last year's 12-24-08 balance, per *Meow*, was \$52,884.97

INCOME:

GRANTS, GIFTS, CONTRIBUTIONS, Awards for Writing Contest, and Conference 2009:

ASPCA	\$ 3,500.00
Pet Sitters	250.00
Hartz	11,500.00
Pfizer	5,000.00
PetCo	500.00
Fort Dodge	500.00
Merial	1,000.00
Purina	8,500.00
AKC	1,000.00
Morris	3,000.00
Sticky Paws	1,000.00
Central Pet	1,500.00
CFA	1,000.00
Bowtie	1,000.00
Petfinder	2,000.00
Sergeant's	1,000.00
Cornell	500.00
World's Best	500.00
TICA (Kari Winters)	750.00
My Three Cats	500.00
Premier Scholarship	500.00
Shojai Mentor Award	500.00
TOTAL SPONSORSHIP	\$45,500.00

MEMBERSHIP:

New members	870.00
Renewals:	4,440.00
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP TO DATE	\$ 5,310.00
Conference registrations	3,900.00
Contest fees total	3,060.00
Book sales	2,524.40

TOTAL INCOME TO DATE **\$60,294.40**

EXPENSES:

Contest Awards	\$ 13,000.00
Scholarship	500.00
Membership Bounty	500.00
Crowne Plaza Bill	35,958.15
*Barnes & Noble	1,713.68
Muse Medallions™	600.90
Red River Trophy (2009)	229.86
Red River Trophy (2008 — outstanding bill never paid)	368.10
Padfolios/Pens	1,832.80
Friday Night Speaker	2,500.00
Travel Stipend	15.00
Web Site stipend	700.00
Contest Chair Stipend-NM	1,000.00
MEOW costs	2,182.79
MEOW stipend	700.00
FedEx shipping and TNT Dinner	1,308.10
Barbara Moss reimbursements, postage, supplies	70.62
Web Site Services	89.15
Payable to FedEx Shipping (NPeterson)	22.94
Fran Shaw - reimbursements, shipping	518.42
Nancy Peterson - reimbursements, shipping	878.85
Sandra Toney - reimbursement postage	4.95
Nancy Marano - reimbursement, postage, contest exp	46.24
Sharon Melnyk - reimbursements, contests supplies, postage	315.44
Wendy Christensen - reimbursements, sec duty, 2000-09	3,527.17
TOTAL EXPENSES TO DATE	(\$68,583.16)

Wendy Christensen details

2000-2002 =	\$ 11.87
2003 =	98.74
2004 =	157.17
2005 =	240.02
2006 =	261.99
2007 =	799.01 (includes conference booklet)
2008 =	1,076.76 (includes con-booklet & awards program)
2009 =	881.61 (to-date includes directories,

CD principal	\$ 22,822.71
Checkbook balance	19,820.56
PayPal balance	6,563.22

TOTAL FUNDS **\$49,206.49 — as of 1/17/10**

~ Submitted by Jill Richardson, Treasurer 1-19-10 ~
 ~ Edits and corrections by Amy Shojai, Past President, 1-21-10 ~



Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting of the Cat Writers' Association, Inc. Saturday, November 21, 2009, White Plains, N.Y

The meeting was called to order by Amy Shojai, president, at 8:45 a.m.

IN ATTENDANCE: Amy Shojai, Kim Thornton, Heike Hagenguth, Arden Moore, Sharon Melnyk, Linda Kay Hardie, Michael Brim, Nancy Peterson. Wendy Christensen arrived late. Fran Shaw volunteered to take minutes of the meeting. The signed attendance sheet showed 35 CWA members present and 13 non-members.

- Motion was made by Michael Brim and seconded by Linda Hardie to waive the reading of last year's (Nov. 23, 2008) meeting minutes. The attending members approved in a voice vote.

- The reading of the Treasurer's Report and Secretary's Report were waived, due to the absence of Dr. Jill Richardson and Wendy Christensen.

- Amy reported that a CWA plaque is being presented to H&R Block for their assistance with tax documents, filed by Mahmoud Shojai. These filings have allowed CWA to be refunded all penalties previously paid to the IRS due to non-filing of the necessary nonprofit organization tax forms in (selected) past years.

Old Business:

- As part of the President's Report, Amy read into the minutes the proclamation of Fresno City, Calif., naming Nov. 19th Ed Eames Day. She also discussed honoring the memory of Kari Winters and Kathryn Hopper, as other CWA members who died in 2009.

- Summarizing CWA sponsorship information, Amy reported \$47,500 in sponsorships for 2008 compared to a total of \$46,250 for 2009, and called this "amazing" in the current recession. CWA lost six sponsors and two reduced funding, but five sponsors increased their funding and CWA had three new, funded Special Awards in 2009.

- Presenting the CWA Contest Report, supplied by Contest Chair Nancy Marano, Amy reported the 2009 contest had 257 entries in the regular categories and 240 entries in the Special Award categories. It was a banner year for article entries in the magazine and newsletter categories, but book entries were down. Nancy also wrote: "Fifty-six people volunteered to judge in this year's contest. The contest committee thanks every one who agreed to do this job because without the judges there would be no contest. Since so many people were willing to help, it meant most judges were asked to review only one or two categories." She thanked the Contest Committee for its hard work.

- Conference Registrations Report: Amy said 23 people attended the Thursday night TNT event. Registrations Coordinator Sharon Melnyk reported 131 people registered for the conference – an improvement in attendance perhaps due to extending the early bird period and allowing payment by PayPal. In her preliminary report, Sharon noted that paid member registrations included 22 early birds and 1 at the regular rate, and 13 non-members registered for the full conference including 12 as early birds. Comped were 15 member volunteers, 45 speakers/editors/agents and 14 attending sponsors. Individual events purchased included 4 for seminars only, 20 for Friday dinner, 1 Saturday lunch, and 1 Saturday banquet.

- CWA Author Signing Coordinator Lyn Garson thanked her Book Signing Committee, especially Carole Stevens Bibisi, for working tirelessly to set up the CWA booth at the show hall on Friday. Lyn reported (preliminarily) that 4 authors were due for signings Saturday morning, 28 authors Saturday afternoon, and 8 authors Sunday.

- Editor Appointments Coordinator Heike Hagenguth reported matching 9 attending editors and agents with 41 pre-conference requests, but noted that many people wanted changes at the last minute and 9 members cancelled their appointments suddenly.

- Editor/Agent Coordinator Fran Pennock Shaw reported that she took over responsibilities from Sharon Melnyk, but together they invited approximately 15 literary agents and 20 book editors, of whom 2 agents and 3 pet book editors accepted immediately; 2 general book editors originally accepted but then had to cancel, and 1 agent cancelled but a replacement agent was found at the last minute. Fran also contacted another 15 New York City general magazine editors, but no one accepted and few even responded. On the plus side, two new literary agents and the two general book editors who had to cancel in 2009 have already expressed interest in attending in 2010. (Note: Audrey Pavia contacted the pet magazine editors this year.)

- Fran also reported that she had compiled an updated list of editors and websites, as the Writers' Guidelines Coordinator, for a handout on the seminar information tables; she reminded attendees to pick up the handout of pet magazine, pet book, general book, and general magazine editors of interest to cat/dog writers.

New Business:

NOMINATIONS/ELECTION: Arden Moore, chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of candidates for election: President, Su Ewing; Vice President, Dusty Rainbolt; Secretary, Wendy Christensen; Treasurer, Jill Richardson; Directors (a two-year term expiring 2011), Paul Glassner, Heike Hagenguth, and Arden Moore.

Motion was made by Linda Hardie to accept the slate, seconded by John McGonagle. The vote of the membership was unanimous.

The president's gavel was turned over to Su Ewing, who chaired the remainder of the meeting. Su pledged to do her best as president, then joked that she will enlist volunteer helpers using chocolate and wine.

VOLUNTEERS: Amy reported that most current committee chairs and coordinators have offered to serve again in 2010.

DISCUSSION REGARDING THE 2010 CONFERENCE: Amy said a two-year contract with the Crowne Plaza Hotel in White Plains was tentatively approved in order to lock in the same room rates in 2010 as 2009, but the CWA Council has a one-week period now in which to cancel, if this is no longer desirable. Several members commented that the Westchester Feline Club cat show/White Plains location is beneficial for next year's conference. It was noted that the CWA Long Range Planning Committee had previously recommended staying in White Plains for 2009 and 2010, after the Committee studied in-depth other options for possible times, locations, and groups/shows with which CWA might link the annual writing conference. That Committee had also recommended re-joining CFA at its November International Cat Show in the future, mostly likely in 2011 or whenever CFA is in the first year of a new hotel contract/new locale for its show, because that's when CFA is least likely to cancel its show. (CFA did cancel in 2007, the third year of its San Mateo, Calif., contract.) A few members then talked about the potential for rotating the conference between TICA and CFA cat shows.

A non-binding recommendation to the CWA Board of Directors to hold the 2010 CWA Conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in White Plains was then approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Amy made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Pennock Shaw, Acting Secretary

Remembering Our Beloved CWA Colleague & Guide Dog Champion



Just One Sneeze: My Lifetime in Love with Ed Eames



By Toni Eames

For me it was love at first listen – I fell in love with Ed’s voice, his sense of humor, and even his guide dog’s name, Perrier!

Ed was sighted until middle age when retinitis pigmentosa changed his world. Perrier came into Ed’s life in 1981 and, as a professor, Ed decided to write a book about his experience and the choices blind people had in selecting a guide dog school. Thus, the birth of *A Guide to Guide Dog Schools*.

In October 1984, I met Ed and his black Labrador Perrier in their office at Baruch College in New York City. Having received my first guide dog in 1967, I was far more familiar with the industry than Ed. Being a clever man, he invited me to co-author the book, and from there our romance blossomed.... But wait, not so fast!

At the time, I lived with my Golden Retriever guide dog Ivy and two cats, Tevye and Disney. I had adopted Disney at four weeks of age, and despite all efforts to socialize him, he remained a one-person cat. If you weren’t me, you were an enemy in Disney’s mind! Although I longed to meet a mate, I wasn’t about to give up the felines. So, before inviting Ed to my apartment, I had to know if he had cat allergies. Having no experience with felines, Ed did not know if this would be a problem.

I was prepared to be disappointed that I might lose this fabulous man. If he had a cold and began sneezing, it would be our first and last date! Fortunately for both of us, good health and no allergy led to the continuation of the romance.

After our marriage in June 1987, we moved to Fresno, California, where we established new careers. Our attention turned to writing about assistance dogs, and we wrote a column called “Off Lead” about the canines who assist people with disabilities. When nominated for the Maxwell Award, we joined the Dog Writers Association of America.

Traveling was a passion for us, and with a grant from Bayer Animal Health and subsequently from Fort Dodge Animal Health, we visited veterinary schools throughout the world speaking about the special needs of disabled people partnered with guide, hearing, and service dogs.

Getting back to the cats, Tevye was a mellow boy and immediately accepted Ed and Perrier into the family. Disney, on the other hand, accepted the dog, but barely tolerated a new human in his world. Ed was not cat savvy, and Disney took advantage of him.

During one incident, Ed took a huge chunk of meat from

the refrigerator and put it in a frying pan to heat. Before turning on the stove, Ed walked away to answer the phone. In a flash, Disney stole the meat and carried his prize under the bed. I was angry with Ed for carelessly leaving the food unguarded, and he was furious with the cat. I captured Disney under the bed, ripped the chunk out of his growling mouth and returned it to Ed, who cut off the offending piece and pan-broiled the rest for himself!

Though not exposed to cats until age 55, Ed learned to love our cats, but never truly grasped their wily ways. He comforted me through the death of Disney and supported me in the adoption of the seven cats who became members of the family during our 22 years of marriage.

At our first Cat Writers Association meeting, we hesitated to take the dogs to the Cat Fanciers’ Association (CFA) show, not knowing how the show cats would react. It turned out not to be a problem. Reveling in my joy at taking a tactile glance at the fur and body structure of a variety of cats, Ed took pleasure in accompanying me through the exhibit halls of the many shows we attended.

Kitty Dieterich, a doyenne of the cat show circuit, lovingly



Photo by Emily Simone

describes her first meeting with us:

“Two beautiful, well mannered dogs with two delightful smiling new friends in the lobby of a large center that was hosting the CFA International Cat Show! I couldn’t wait to share our wonderful cats with my four new friends. Dogs at a cat show????!! Of course, your boys knew they were ambassadors and acted accordingly. There was never a problem because the cats responded with respect when introduced. Ed asked innumerable questions, was intent on learning about the different breeds, and handled the kitties like an old hand. Everyone had a great time, and all the animals benefited. Ed’s interest in everything around him was amazing. He gave a bit of himself to everyone he met. Many folks are better for having known Ed Eames!”

Ed loved people, and his enormous smile drew them to us. He was a tireless, energetic advocate for people working with assistance dogs. His passion was the International Association of Assistance Dog Partners, www.iaadp.org, the consumer advocacy organization we cofounded in 1993. (continued) →

With Ed as President, the IAADP grew from a very small group in 1993 to over 2,500 Partner members in 2009, plus many Friend members and Provider members.

Remembering Our Beloved Ed Eames (continued)

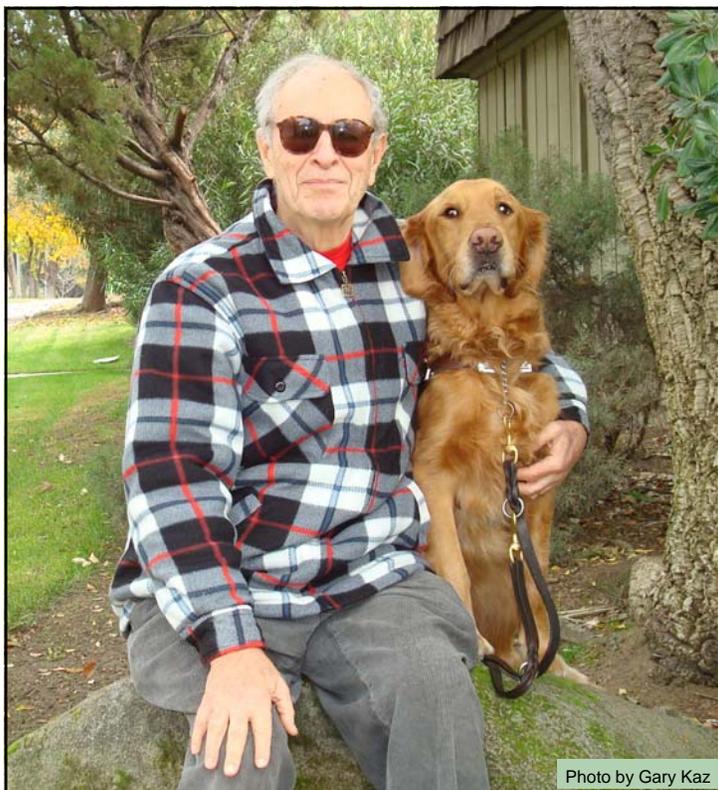


Photo by Gary Kaz

→ Ed worked with the U.S. Department of Justice to tighten the definition of a “service animal” and with the U.S. Department of Transportation to establish relief areas for assistance dogs. He advocated for sidewalks and other disability-friendly amenities in Fresno; served on the boards of *Newsreel Magazine*, Disability Rights California, and the North Fresno Lions Club; and joined a coalition to pass a sales tax to improve public transportation.

Ed’s guide dog Latrell continues to live with me, my guide dog Keebler, and my four cats. My life and the world are emptier without Ed in it. President and CWA founder Amy Shojai remembers:

“Ed was a bright spot in the world of dogs, writing, and the whole community of people who love dogs. I think the first time we met was at a DWAA awards banquet. I was a newbie, and feeling way out of my league among all the folks who knew each other. It was like a big reunion and I felt very

lonely, knowing very few people. But there were the guide dogs – and Toni and Ed with his big smile, eager handshake, wanting to know all about me and my work and share his passionate vision about assistance dogs. That night the formation of the

Cat Writers’ Association was announced (with chuckles and a few cat-calls from the audience!).

“Ed and Toni made a point of including cats in their work, so that they, too, could become CWA members. And thereafter, both attended several conferences. I remember

Ed’s trademark smile, his always spot-on pointed questions and insightful comments for panelists, and of course, Ed and Toni’s canine partners – honorary CWA members with their own press passes/badges – who may have been among the first canine attendees at the CFA International Cat Shows!

“Because of Toni and Ed, both so widely respected in the field of animal writing, many DWAA members took a second and third look at CWA, and began to participate. Ed is a big reason that CWA has truly become such a welcoming place for all writers, no matter their focus. Ed built bridges. His work continues to build bridges today. And he will be missed.”

“People with service dogs have much to thank Ed for, as do people with disabilities who have no need of a service dog. I will truly miss Ed’s joie de vivre, his love of good food, his witty conversation, and his vast range of knowledge.”
— Phyllis DeGioia, PetConnection.com



Photo by Betsy Stowe

PHOTOS: (above) Toni & Ed speaking at a CWA Conference with Keebler & Latrell; (above left) Ed & Latrell; (facing page) a family photo

International Association of Assistance Dog Partners
Go to www.iaadp.org to join IAADP, make a tax-deductible donation, learn about IAADP programs, buy the Assistance Dog DVD **Partners in Independence**, read more about Ed, leave comments, and make memorial donations to further Ed & Toni’s work. ❤️

MARKET NEWS



The **Bylines Writers' Desk Calendar** features a weekly essay focusing on the ups (or downs!) of the writing life, along with a brief bio for each writer and a B&W photo. To get a calendar, go to <http://www.bylinescalendar.com>. CWA's **Roberta Beach Jacobson** tells us she's been featured in them and collected pocket money and a calendar for each entry. "They're collecting short essays until March 1 for their 2011 calendar," says Roberta. "Sent my try off last night. Here's the link if you want to give it a shot: <http://www.bylinescalendar.com/guidelines.php>."

Conference for Writers: It's too late for early bird registration discount, but you can still sign up for two New York City events for writers: the May 27 Agent-Author Seminar, which will feature query letter and opening pages small-group workshop critiques and keynote speech by New York Times best-selling author Lorenzo Carcaterra; and the 2010 May 28-29 Backspace Writers Conference featuring agents, authors, and acquisitions editors and more workshop critiques. For information, see <http://www.backspacewritersconference.com> or contact Karen Dionne, at karendionne@bksp.org.

Pounce on the chance to attend The Well Adjusted Cat Workshop/Seminar with Dr. Nicholas Dodman, BVMS, Diplomate ACVB. In *Secrets to Understanding Feline Behavior*, the topics covered will include Social Behavior, Feline Fear and Anxiety, Feline Medical Problems Presenting as Behavior Problems, Litter Box and Scratching Strategies, and Feline Compulsive Behaviors. *When:* Friday, March 26, 2010, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. *Location:* Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA, Pasadena, CA
Cost: \$99/pp early bird one-day registration (on or before 2/14/10), or \$149/pp standard one-day
To Register: Please visit www.thepetdocs.com and click on events.
Questions?: Contact steve@thepetdocs.com.

Marion Lane tells us that the journal *Creative Nonfiction* is looking for beautiful stories about the animals in our lives for an upcoming issue, with a deadline of April 2. If anyone actually gets a story accepted, please be sure to include your CWA membership in your bio. Good luck, one and all! See <http://www.creativenonfiction.org/thejournal/submittoconf.htm#Animals>.

Thanks to All the Volunteers - You Made 2009 a Great Year for CWA!

By Amy D. Shojai, CWA Immediate-Past President

2009 OFFICERS

President: Amy D. Shojai, CABC
Vice President: Kim Thornton
Secretary: Wendy Christensen
Treasurer: Jill Richardson, DVM
Past President: Nancy Peterson
Council of Directors: Paul Glassner, Heike Hagenguth,
Arden Moore, Sharon Melnyk, Michael Brim

2009 Contest Committee

Nancy Marano, Chair; Natalia Krawetz, Marion Lane, Julie Ann Mock, Arden Moore, Dusty Rainbolt, Betsy Stowe, Barbara Stretton, Sandra Toney

2009 Conference Committee

Amy Shojai & Kim Thornton, Co-chair; Sharon Melnyk, Audrey Pavia, Fran Pennock Shaw, Barbara Stretton; SPECIAL THANKS to David Frei and Westminster Kennel Club for loan of the PowerPoint projector

Autograph/Book Signing Committee

Lyn Garson, Chair; Carole Stevens Bibisi, Patricia Fry, Linda Mohr, Mary Shafer, Clea Simon; Westchester Feline Club; Carrie Foote; and Grace Cantwell, Community Relations Manager, and her assistant, Becca Stubbs, with Barnes & Noble, Inc. (Booksellers)

OTHER 2009 CWA COMMITTEE CHAIRS & VOLUNTEERS

Awards Banquet Program: Lynette Cook
Awards Display: Dusty Rainbolt
Book Signing: Lyn Garson
Certificates of Excellence: Julie Ann Mock
Conference Brochure: Wendy Christensen
Door Prizes: Nancy Peterson
Editor/Agent Solicitation: Fran Pennock Shaw
Editor/Agent Appointments: Heike Hagenguth
MEOW Editor: Karen Payne
Conference Photographers: Karen Payne & Betsy Stowe
MEOW to Sponsors: Barbara Moss
Nominations Committee: Arden Moore, Chair; Audrey Pavia, Kim Thornton
Non-Attending Author Display: Debra White
Public Relations Coordinator: Lea-Ann Germinder; Anne Leighton, Robin Olson (Twitter); Leslie Masson (Westchester Cat Club PR)
Registration: Sharon Melnyk, Chair; Su Ewing, Carol Frischmann, Sandy Robins
Premier Pet Products Scholarship Coordinator: Bobbi Florio Graham
Web Site: Karen Lawrence
Writers' Guidelines/Information: Fran Pennock Shaw
Writers' Web Sites Liaison: Sandra Toney

...Purr... Purr... Purr...

Freelancers Working Together is a new Facebook group that allows freelance writers worldwide to share news, information, and suggestions, and to help each other in this difficult working environment. Conceived by CWA's **Barbara Florio Graham**, and sponsored by the Cassell Network of Writers (which offers FWT members a \$5 discount on any new membership, including a year's subscription to *Freelance Writer's Report*), this interactive forum lets members exchange information, ask questions, and provide answers. Find a link to the forum at www.SimonTeakettle.com and at www.writers-editors.com. Membership in the Facebook group is free to all, whether or not they take advantage of Cassell's special offer. To join, go to <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/group.php?gid=283032441028>. ♥

WELCOME MAT



NEW MEMBERS [member numbers in brackets]

Lorrie Bell Hawkins [P605-09], 28 Maurice Crescent, Dieppe, New Brunswick, E1A 8R2 CANADA; Email:

JolicureCats@nb.aibn.com; Web site:

www.percheronpresscanada.com. Lorrie Bell Hawkins is the author of *Jolicure Cats*. Her sponsor is Wendy Christensen.

Ingrid King [P603-09], 12624 Etruscan Drive, Herndon, VA 20171; 703-309-4296 (cell); Email:

Ingrid.healing.hands@cox.net; Web sites: www.ingridking.com,

www.consciouscat.net; Blog: www.consciouscat.net; Twitter: consciouscats. Ingrid is an author, blogger, and pet health expert with expertise in pet health, human-animal bond, animals as teachers, pet loss, and grief. She publishes a bi-weekly e-zine titled *News for You and Your Pet* and hosts the popular blog *The Conscious Cat*. She's the author of *Buckley's Story: Lessons from a Feline Master Teacher*. Her sponsor is Clea Simon.

Barbara Kohn [P608-10], 1502 Trollman Avenue, San Mateo, CA 94401; 650-342-9853, 650-342-1464, 650-255-8095; Email: Barbara@kohnpr.com; Web site: www.kohnpr.com; Blogs: www.examiner.com/x-9729-Cats-Examiner, www.examiner.com/x-23285-SF-Cat-Rescue-Examiner; Twitter: barbkohn. Barbara writes two columns for Examiner.com: National Cats Examiner (rescue, sanctuaries, new products, news about cats, and legislation); and San Francisco Cats Examiner (weekly postings of adoptable cats in shelters and rescue organizations). Her sponsor is Rosie Sorensen.

Elles Nijssen [P604-09], Lindengracht 139-c, 1015 KE Amsterdam, The Netherlands; + 31 20 427 55 91; Email: elles@scarlet.nl. Elles is CWA's first Dutch member. She gives cat behavior therapy; writes monthly behavior articles for *Majesteit*, the largest cat magazine in Holland and Belgium, *Assistent*, a magazine for vet assistants, and other magazines; and answers readers' questions about behavior. She's working on two books, including one about the famous cat shelter in Amsterdam, De Poezenboot ("The Cats' Boat"). Elles' sponsor is Wendy Christensen.

Robin A. F. Olson [P602-09], 63 Osborne Hill Road, Sandy Hook, CT 06482-1544; 203-426-5425; Email: robin@coveredincathair.com; Web site: www.coveredincathair.com. Robin is a multi-talented creative force who specializes in humor, cat wellness, cat behavior, cat welfare, socializing ferals, cat photography, and TNR. A professional graphic designer, she's a member of the National Association of Photoshop Professionals. Robin's sponsor is Kathryn Hopper.

Mary A. Shafer [P607-09]; P.O. Box 97. Ferndale PA 18921; 610-847-2456 (home and business); Email: author@maryshafer.com; Web site: www.maryshafer.com; Blog: <http://almostperfectpets.blogspot.com>; Twitter: wordforge. Mary is a writer, editor, and publisher who specializes in pets, weather, marketing, history, and book publishing. She was a presenter at the 2009 CWA Conference. Her sponsor is Roberta Beach Jacobson.

Robert B. Wyatt [P606-09], 808 Broadway, Apt. 2N, New York, NY 10003; 212-477-5007, 845-679-7434; Email: arba@aol.com, wyattbook@aol.com; Web site: www.wyattbook.com. Robert is a veteran New York trade book publisher with Ballantine Books, Avon Books, and Delacorte Press. He specializes in fiction publication using as many formats as modern publishing affords. He is the author of *The Fluffys & the Box* (A Wyatt Book, 2010). His sponsor is Wendy Christensen. ♥

Bits & Bytes



Congratulations to all our talented members!

CWA's **Darlene Arden** was quoted in "The Polite Pet" column of the February issue of *Ladies' Home Journal*, on newsstands now. Check it out at <http://www.lhj.com/relationships/family/pets/the-polite-pet>. In recent months, **Darlene** taught volunteers at an Albuquerque city shelter to clicker train cats and dogs for environmental enrichment and to make them more adoptable. She blogs at The Red Room and PerPETuallySpeaking.

Barbara Florio Graham was quoted in an article in the February issue of *Reader's Digest*. A Canadian edition article by Helen Lammers-Helps called "Tapping into Your Creativity" mentions Barbara's online creativity course and includes a sidebar with her suggestions. Also, with publicist Randy Ray, **Barbara** has created instructions for authors planning book signings. See the document at www.SimonTeakettle.com/book.signings.htm. And congratulations to **Barbara** for winning First Prize in the Ottawa Independent Writers' annual poetry contest.

Fran Pennock Shaw announces that Barron's Educational Series is publishing her book of original cat poems and punchlines *Gotta Love Cats!* as a Valentine's Day gift book in 2010. (The cat photos are not Fran's, but ones purchased by Barron's from an Italian book publisher.)

Allia Zobel Nolan posted an illustrated feature on "Life Lessons My Cats Taught Me: Life Lessons from My Three Angel Pets" at <http://www.beliefnet.com/Love-Family/Pets/2010/01/Cat-Life-Lessons.aspx>. **Allia's** book *Cat Confessions: A Kitty Come Clean Tell-All Book*, to be published soon by Harvest House, will answer questions about what kitty does when you leave the house. Two children's books by **Allia** are due out this fall: *The Dreamy, Fish, Happy Bible Storybook*, a whimsically illustrated account of favorite Bible stories, with more than 30 flaps (Zondervan); and *Moses' Memory Book*, the third in her Bible heroes series (Harvest House). **Allia's** *The Worrywart's Prayer Book* was designated the Best Devotional of 2009 by the Christian reviewer, A Peek At My Bookshelf. See <http://deenasbooks.blogspot.com/2004/11/deenas-best-of-2009.html>.

Address Changes: Celeste Yarnall has a new email address: tangokitties@yahoo.com. Marion Lane's new email address is marionl@earthlink.net (it replaces marionl@aspc.org).

& THESE CWA MEMBERS RECEIVED ONE OR MORE NOMINATIONS IN THE 2009 DWAA WRITING CONTEST:

REGULAR

CATEGORIES:

Fran Pennock Shaw
Joanne Anderson,
Debra White
Sandy Robins
Kim Thornton
Arden Moore (x 2)
Liz Palika (x 4)
Lesléa Newman
Deborah Wolfe (x 2)

Debra M. Eldredge, DVM
Catherine Conheim
Pamela Bauer Mueller

SPECIAL AWARDS:

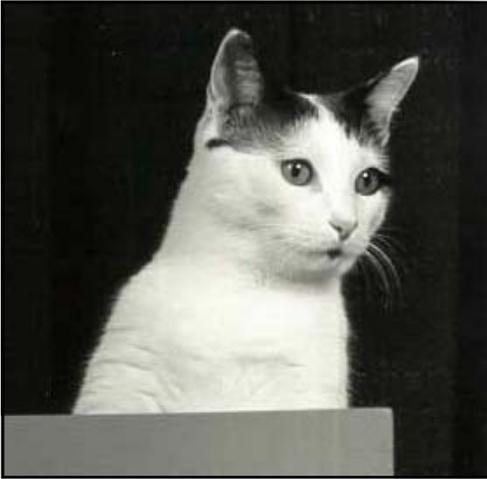
Fran Pennock Shaw
Eve Adamson
Liz Palika
Paul Glassner

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Cat's MEOW

Meet Princess Kitty®: The Smartest Cat in the World

By Meow Editor Karen Payne



Sometimes fate, or plain bad luck, suddenly blocks the path ahead. Case in point: Last month my computer, car, and numerous appliances all broke down at the same time, and it's been a struggle to get this newsletter and other tasks back on track – but now life goes on as before. Another

Photos on this page: © Princess Kitty, Inc.

time – perhaps only once in a lifetime – Destiny scratches at the door, a Muse appears, hearts are joined, new vistas beckon, and lives are forever changed. Case in point: Princess Kitty.

Princess Kitty® was a cat of destiny. Everything about her was magical – from her mysterious entrance into my life to the “cat-risma” that drew thousands of adoring fans to her. There never was and never will be anyone else like this “Smartest Cat in the World.”

Princess Kitty was a unique force of nature, a thinker, a wit, an intelligence of the highest order. She achieved a long list of “firsts” in many domains, proved that cats can learn far more than was previously thought possible, modeled the human-animal bond, attracted famous friends, earned wide coverage by national and international media, and lived large for the 10 years she was on earth (1985-1995). She was memorialized in proclamations as “an ambassador of goodwill for her species.” No one who met her could ever forget her.

Professor Alan Beck, Director of Purdue University's Center of the Human-Animal Bond, who saw Princess Kitty perform, told the *National Enquirer*: “Princess Kitty is extremely rare. She seems to be a little person in a cat's body.” He wasn't the only one who concluded that Princess Kitty was more than a cat. Strangers often sidled up to me to affirm that that Princess Kitty was actually a human being disguised as a cat. Neighborhood children told me they had discussed why Princess Kitty was so special and had concluded, “She has human eyes.”

Back in 1987, when the world's only famous cat was Morris the Cat (whose chief trick was doing a sit-stay for the camera), Princess Kitty embarked on a career of individual celebrity that took her to Hollywood and beyond, and landed her on the cover of *Cat Fancy* and also in mainstream media, including the Associated Press,

Newsweek, the New York Times, and the Wall Street Journal. She appeared on national and international TV shows and crisscrossed the country to give one-cat stage performances.

Princess Kitty learned over 50 tricks of every kind within two years and claimed upwards of a hundred before her untimely death. Scientists who studied cats thought it was not possible for cats to be so highly trained – until they saw her. Her brilliance was limited only by my lack of imagination; after a while, I had a hard time thinking up new tricks.

Many of the best bits in our live shows were invented by Princess Kitty herself, who loved performing the tricks that received the most laughs, boos, or cheers. She turned jumping over hurdles into doing the “cat limbo” under the low bar, followed by “cheating” (jumping through two bars), and finished by the grand-finale huge leap over the high bar. Laughs, boos, AND cheers – for her, this trick had it all.

Princess Kitty explored uncharted territory and broke new ground for cats with almost everything she did. She pushed the envelope in trick training, clicker training, performance, and the human-animal bond. With just a little help from me, she published advice columns, secured representation by the William Morris Agency, and was the only animal member ever inducted into the 5,000-member International Platform Association (whose previous members included icons like Charles Dickens, Mark Twain, Abraham Lincoln, Bob Hope, and Isaac Asimov). She stole the show at an IPA convention with her “speech” in the Grand Ballroom of the Washington, D.C., Mayflower Hotel. Between talks by Dr. Henry Heimlich and Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, Princess Kitty brought down the house with her humorous antics.

At restaurants, chefs prepared meals especially for Princess Kitty. She went to nightclubs, movie theaters, and malls. She attended parties, and threw parties that were major media events. She was the Chaircat and CEO (Cat Executive Officer) of her own company and the first cat honored by an official fan club. In Miami, her hometown, she was

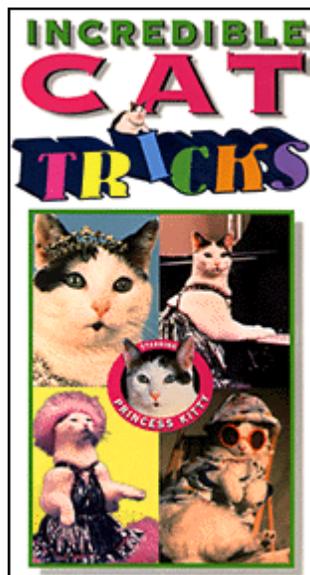
recognized everywhere she went. The news media dubbed her a show-biz superstar, the Einstein of the Cat World, the Divine Feline, and the Smartest Cat in the World.

In 1997, the year Princess Kitty's video *Incredible Cat Tricks Starring Princess Kitty* won a Muse Medallion™, I was quoted in a *New York Times* article, saying, “We're now in a period when we must be led out of our state of missing Princess Kitty into a reaffirmation of all that she stands for. There still is no other individual cat who has been trained to the level of Princess Kitty.”

That's still true today! Although she has been featured in many books, the full story of Princess Kitty's life has never been told. That's what I now have to do – and once the book is published, I hope that everyone who loves cats and admires

greatness will agree that any project about extraordinary felines must mention this magical cat who transformed my life and affected so many people in positive, healing ways.

As I write our book, I'll share more with you. ♥



~ A Note from the Contest Chair ~

Pick Contest Categories to Enter ~ Answer the Call for Judges!

By Nancy Marano, CWA Contest Chair

We are celebrating the 2009 contest winners in this issue – but we need to think ahead to the 2010 contest as well. Members of the Contest Committee this year will be Judi Basolo, Marion Lane, Julie Mock, Dusty Rainbolt, Fran Shaw, Betsy Stowe, and Sandra Toney. I may ask more of you to serve on the committee as we go along (just an advance warning!). Please email me if you would like to serve on the Contest Committee.

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 all of you this year to make the contest a success! ♥

CWA 2009 COMMUNICATION CONTEST REGULAR CATEGORIES

I. Magazines

- I.1 – Monthly Magazine – National (3 issues)
- I.2 – Magazine – Regional (3 issues)
- 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)

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)

III. Newsletters

(Printouts of newsletters distributed by email may be entered)

- III.1 – Newsletter – Breed-Specific (3 issues)
- III.2 – Newsletter – National Circulation (3 issues)
- III.3 – Newsletter – Regional or Membership Circulation (3 issues)
- 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)

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
- 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

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)
- VII.6 – Blog: Single Blog
- VII.7 – Blogs: Regular Blogs (3 different blogs)

VIII. Graphic Arts

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

YES! I want to be a 2010 contest judge! Count me in!

(Please type or print legibly.)

Please volunteer now to judge the 2010 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 2010 CWA Communications Contest.
- I am an Associate member and volunteer to assist the 2010 Contest Committee.

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

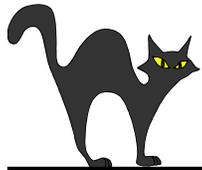
Send to: Nancy Marano, 7601 Vista del Arroyo NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109
or email her (preferred method) at nmarano@aol.com.

NAME: _____ CONTACT INFO: _____



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

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



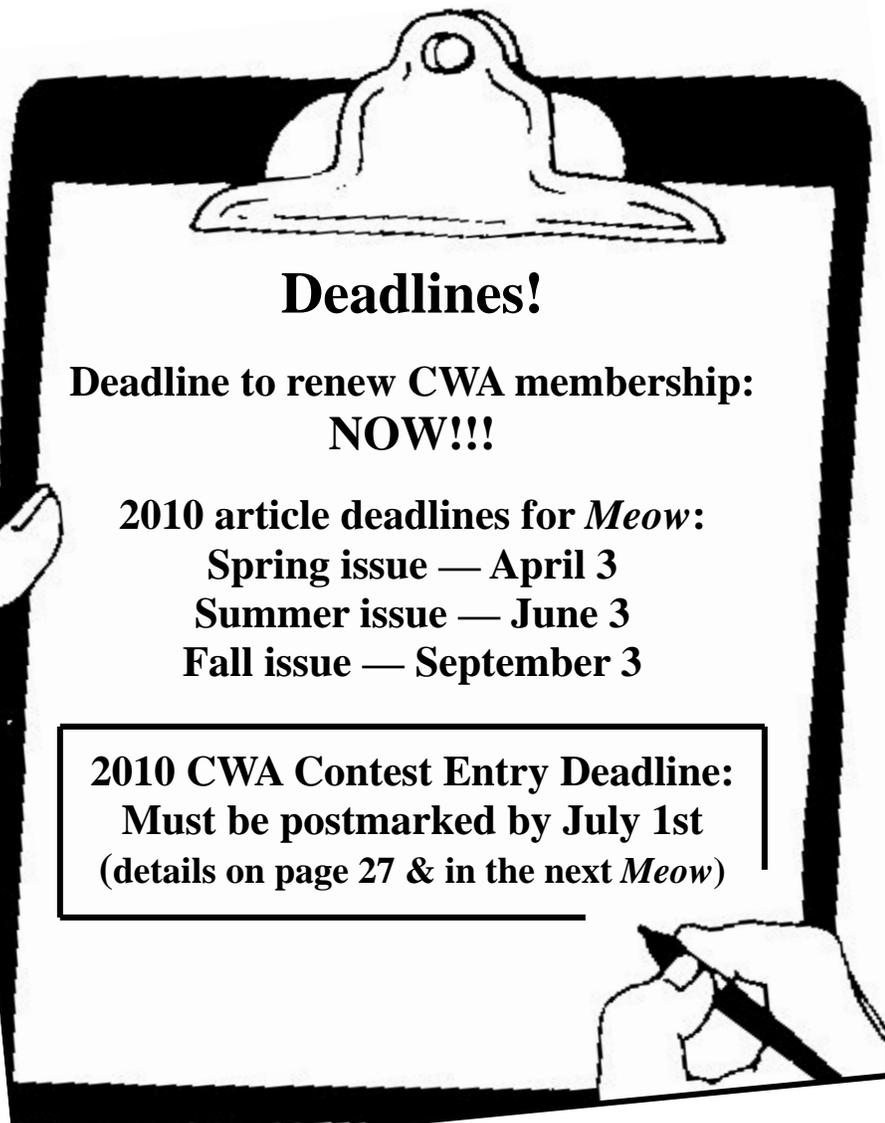
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Meow

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

First Class



"Mark" Your Calendars!

~ Special thanks to our generous *Meow* contributors ~
~ including photographers Robin A.F. Olson & Betsy Stowe ~



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