



# Meow

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

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

## How to Do the 2010 CWA Conference!

By Paul Glassner, CWA Director

How petrified I was at my first CWA conference – actually, the first two and perhaps three conferences. If you're about to go to your first, here are some pointers from someone who's been there (ha-ha) – I mean, if you, like me, hail from the Shy Zone.

I think of the conference as a pep rally, a place to get recharged, re-enthused, perhaps even inspired. There are, in my view, two parts to this annual gathering: learning and connecting. (Other parts are eating, drinking and, if you're lucky, sleeping, but you don't need much instruction about them.)

The learning part is easy. Attend as many sessions as you can and sit up front. Just as in an elementary-school classroom (it's amazing how this doesn't change over time), talkers sit in the back. Sit in the first couple of rows so you won't hear them. (Also, when the Q & A starts, you'll hear the questions whether they come from the front or back of the room.)

This is not the time to socialize. It just isn't. Neither give nor receive cute comments from other attendees. Pay attention to the speakers. You never know when a presenter will throw out a nugget. Often it's an aside or a quick example. Don't forego insights. Listen!

That's it for the learning part (I assume you know how to take notes). The hard part for us wallflowers is the connecting, the socializing. For me it was dreadful. You're new, you know no one. Who do you talk to? How do you talk to her/him? What do you say?

Make a game of it. Pick somebody, anybody: the person next to you, the person farthest from you, the person wearing the most purple (or your favorite color). Just get the ball rolling. It takes only a nudge.

Since you're surrounded by kindred spirits, you could start with: Hey, how much do YOU enjoy banging your head against a keyboard? While it's true that most everyone in the room is a devoted (if reluctant) head banger, most of us prefer not to be reminded of our pointless, self-destructive acts.

Try one of these: How many cats do you have? What kind of cats do you have? What's the name of your cutest/biggest/smallest/fluffiest cat? Is this your first cat conference? All you want is to get started. You may or may not hit it off with that person. If not, say, "Nice to meet you" and move on.

Ready to up the ante? It took me decades – I kid you not, decades – to learn this: Big-name Authors (like actors or rock stars) are people, too, like you. They prefer not to eat alone. Approach a presenter and try: Would you like some company during lunch?

Perhaps s/he'll say no, thank you. But what if they accept? What will you say during all that time? Fear not, they (like most people) love to talk about themselves, so give them the chance.

One more piece of advice: Maybe I'm over-sensitive, but I had a headache long before Day 1 concluded. It was all too much, too fast. Bring aspirin. ♥



*Paul Glassner is a member of the CWA Board of Directors and a multiple Muse Medallion™ and Certificate of Excellence winner. He produced Our Animals, the San Francisco SPCA's quarterly magazine, for 25 years, and the publication won more than 100 awards during his tenure.*

**2010 CWA Conference Dates: November 18-21**

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# President's Message

By Susan M. Ewing, CWA President

## The CWA Conference: A Fall Highlight And a Fabulous Deal



Fall is my favorite time of year. Never mind that the next season in line is winter. I just love the cooler days, the even cooler nights, and the turning of the leaves. I love apples and pumpkins and driving to the cider mill for just-pressed cider. I love putting an extra blanket on the bed, and sorting through my sweatshirts and sweaters.

And, right near the top of my list of favorite things of fall is the CWA conference. I get excited just thinking about it. Seeing old friends, meeting new ones, attending amazing seminars, meeting with editors and agents, enjoying great meals, cheering for both nominees and winners at the awards dinner.

As a brand-new president, I'm seeing the conference from a different side this year. There are dozens of different parts that all need to be looked at and then linked together to create the entire picture of the conference – an amazing jigsaw puzzle. The good news is that even if a piece is a little bent or broken, there are so many people willing and able to fix it that the conferences succeed in spite of glitches.

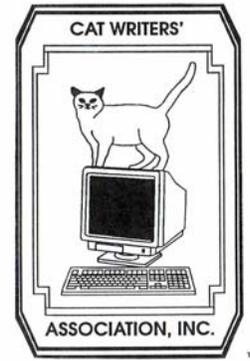
This year, Dusty Rainbolt has lined up so many terrific speakers that most times, we'll be running three simultaneous seminars. I'm already in a dither over what to attend. I want to hear Dena Harris talk about Facebook, and Bill Pflieger is back again this year to talk about Webcasting. One of my favorite editors, Beth Adelman, will be talking about Grammar Myths and Truths. I've got to hear Steve Dale and Dr. Jane Brunt talk about CATalyst, but there are so many more and I know that presidential duties will prevent me from getting to everything.

Another thing I'm very aware of this year is the incredible DEAL this conference is. The most it will cost anyone to attend the conference is \$200 and that's for non-members after October 1. Members who registered before October 1 pay only \$100. Not only does this cover all the seminars, plus up to three meetings one-on-one with an editor or agent, but it includes two breakfasts, two dinners, one lunch, and two cocktail hours. All that food is worth a minimum of \$300 per person. See what an amazing bargain our seminar is? See how wonderful all our sponsors are? Google writing conferences, or check out the back of a writer's magazine, and see what most conferences cost. Notice how most of them charge separately for the editor appointments?

I know not everyone can afford even our conference. Airfare and hotel costs aren't as reasonable as our registration fee. BUT, if you can manage to attend, you won't regret it. You'll come away from the conference recharged and ready to query every editor in the world. You'll make friends and build a wonderful network of helpful people that will rival anything Facebook can offer.

Sign up now! I guarantee, you won't regret it. ♥

**17th Annual CWA Writers' Conference,  
Nov. 18-21, 2010, in White Plains, N.Y.!**



## Cat Writers' Association

([www.catwriters.org](http://www.catwriters.org))

### Officers

**SUSAN M. EWING, President**

Phone: 716-484-6155

66 Adams Street, Jamestown, NY 14701

Email: [dogwriter@windstream.net](mailto:dogwriter@windstream.net)

**DUSTY RAINBOLT, Vice President**

Phone: 972-724-0032 \* Fax: 214-632-9367

P.O. Box 293413, Lewisville, TX 75029-3413

Email: [dustycatwriter@pobox.com](mailto:dustycatwriter@pobox.com)

**WENDY CHRISTENSEN, Secretary**

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

256 Timbertop Road, New Ipswich, NH 03071

Email: [christensen@catlas.mv.com](mailto:christensen@catlas.mv.com)

**FRAN PENNOCK SHAW,**

*Acting Treasurer*

Phone: 717-397-9531 \* Fax: call first

1761 Wickersham Lane, Lancaster, PA 17603

Email: [franshaw1@juno.com](mailto:franshaw1@juno.com)

### Council of Directors

#### Class of 2011

Paul Glassner

Heike Hagenguth

Arden Moore

#### Class of 2010

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Sharon Melnyk

### Co-Founder/Lifetime Director

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### Immediate-Past President

Amy D. Shojai, CABC

### MEOW Editor Emeritus

Betsy Stowe

### Newsletter Editor

**KAREN PAYNE**

Phone 305-665-1639 \* Fax: 305-665-1639

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

Email: [karen90@attglobal.net](mailto:karen90@attglobal.net)

### Webmistress

**KAREN LAWRENCE**

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

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

Email: [kml@cfa.org](mailto:kml@cfa.org)

# Thank You to Our Dedicated 2010 Contest Judges!

By Nancy Marano, CWA Contest Chair

Let's hear it for the judges! The contest committee for the 2010 Cat Writers' Association Communication Contest is thrilled that so many of you – 67 CWA members in all – volunteered to judge this year. I think that must be a record. Due to such a great turnout of volunteer judges almost no one needed to judge more than two categories. My mailbox and email inbox filled up quickly with completed scoring sheets from the judges. Many thanks to those of you who turned in your scores early.

By the end of September, the contest committee had calculated and recalculated all the scores to identify those entrants who earned Certificates of Excellence (averaging 90 points or more on a 100-point scale) and the "top cats" (the Muse Medallion™ winners) in each of the regular categories. Our goal is to send out Certificates of Excellence to qualifying contest entries by the end of October. Names of the Muse Medallion™ winners are kept secret until they are revealed at the awards ceremony – the feline writers' version of the Oscars – on Nov. 20 in White Plains, N.Y., at the CWA conference.

We salute the following members who volunteered to judge in this year's contest. To maintain fairness, we are listing the members in alphabetical order and not by category.

Special paws up to Joanne Anderson, Niki Anderson,

Sally Bahner, Judi Basolo, Sheila Boneham, Jane Calloway, Wendy Christensen, Steve Dale, Andrea Dorn, Toni Eames, Susan Easterly, Deb Eldridge, Tamara Kreuz Foehring, Patricia Fry, Janiss Garza, Paul Glassner, Barbara Florio Graham, Heike Hagenguth, Debra Halborn, Linda Kay

Hardie, Dena Harris, Helen Jablonski, Roberta Beach Jacobson, Bernadette Kazmarski, Jane A. Kelley, Ingrid King, Marci Kladnik, Natalia Krawetz, Marilyn Krieger, and Nancy Kucik.

Also, high paws for Marion Lane, Anne Leighton, Nancy Marano, Ramona Marek, Marva Marrow, John McGonagle, Sharon Melnyk, Lynn Miller, Mary Anne Miller, Linda Mohr, Arden Moore, Cimeron Morrissey, Shirley Rousseau Murphy,



Nancy Marano's chief contest volunteer, Sammy

Karen Payne, and Nancy Peterson.

And, three meows for Dusty Rainbolt, Sandy Robins, Jacque Schultz, Fran Pennock Shaw, Amy Shojai, Clea Simon, Raven Simons, Gregory M. Simpson, Betty Sleep, Betsy Stowe, Suzanne Stowe, Franny Syufy, Patti Thompson, Kim Thornton, Sandra Toney, Judi Traynor, Carolyn Vella, Bob Walker, Lee Wardlaw, Michelle West, Debra White, and Deborah Wolfe.

Good luck to all the entrants and lots of paw clapping for all the judges! ♥

## Top Reasons to Skip the 2010 CWA Conference!

By Deb Eldredge, D.V.M.

I actually suggest that you do NOT attend the CWA conference! If you attend,

- 1) You will be inspired.
- 2) You will be entertained.
- 3) You will be educated.
- 4) You will make a number of great friends.
- 5) You will get to meet cyberspace friends in person.
- 6) You will make amazing contacts and gain writing work.

7) You will have numerous networking opportunities.

8) You will get all of this at an unbelievable price, including most of your meals!

The Eldredge family has gained plenty of work, including book contracts, from attending the CWA conferences – so if you decide to attend, BEWARE! All of the above is true! It will happen to you!



# This just in! CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE WINNERS

By Nancy Marano, CWA Contest Chair



The following people will be awarded one or more Certificates of Excellence in the 2010 CWA Communication Contest. This means they averaged a score by the judges of 90 points or better out of 100 points. The winners of the Muse Medallions™ will be announced on November 20, 2010, at the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual CWA Awards Banquet in White Plains, N.Y. Congratulations to each of you!

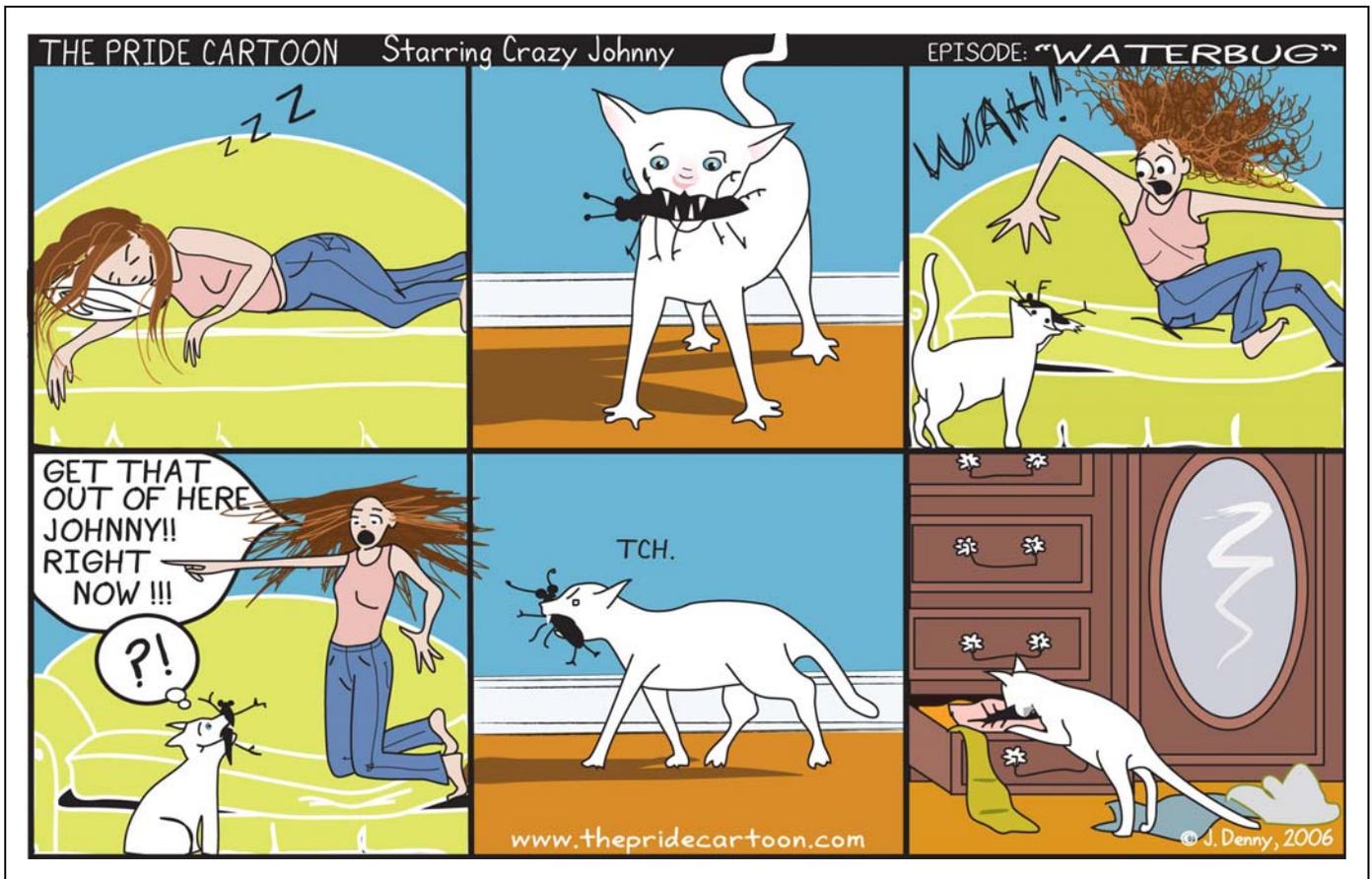
Joanne Anderson  
 Niki Anderson  
 Jim Baker  
 Judi Basolo  
 Laura Lee Bloor  
 Mara Bovsun  
 Sarah Caney  
 Arna Cohen  
 Steve Dale  
 Andrea Dorn  
 Carole Nelson Douglas  
 Helmi Flick  
 Stephanie Galindo  
 Janiss Garza  
 Brenda Griffin  
 Lorie Bell Hawkins  
 Christy Hoffman  
 Jean Hofve

Louise Holton  
 Weems Hutto  
 Helen Jablonski  
 Bernadette Kazmarski  
 Fr. Paul A. Keenan  
 Ingrid King  
 Dwight Kirkland  
 Marilyn Krieger  
 Thad Krasnesky  
 Karen Lawrence  
 Karen Litzinger  
 Susan Logan  
 Dale Roxanne McGraw  
 Brigitte McMinn  
 Mary Anne Miller  
 Elaine Wexler-Mitchell  
 Arden Moore  
 Cimeron Morrissey

Shirley Rousseau Murphy  
 Jeanne O'Donnell  
 Robin Olson  
 Karen Pryor  
 Dusty Rainbolt  
 Jill Richardson  
 Kelly Riser  
 Nancy Reeves  
 Sandy Robins  
 Florence Scarinci  
 Mary Shafer  
 Fran Pennock Shaw  
 Amy Shojai  
 Peg Silloway  
 Roxanne Snopek  
 Rosie Sorenson  
 Drew Strouble  
 Debbie Swanson

Rebecca Sweat  
 Kim Thornton  
 Bob Walker  
 Debbie Waller  
 Amy White  
 Nancy White  
 Deborah Wolfe  
 Elissa Wolfson  
 Celeste Yarnall  
 Jane Yolen

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 ★ **ADDITIONAL** ★  
 ★ **INFORMATION on** ★  
 ★ **Certificate winners** ★  
 ★ **will be posted soon on** ★  
 ★ **CWA's web site,** ★  
 ★ **[www.catwriters.org](http://www.catwriters.org)** ★  
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# CWA Conference Details – Be There!

By Susan M. Ewing, CWA President

The CWA Conference is fast approaching! Have you registered yet? You can register online via PayPal on our web site: <http://www.catwriters.org/annual-info.html>.

After October 1, members will pay \$150.00 and non-members \$200.00 for full registration — still a terrific bargain, so grab this chance to attend the conference.

If you're on other writing group lists, spread the word about our CWA Conference. Refer people to our web site for information. Tell all your writing friends and colleagues that they can learn a lot at our Conference even if they never write a word about cats or any other animals!

Topics this year include “Untangling Web Writing,” “Book Promotion for Writers, Introverts and other Reluctant Marketers,” “How to Query an Editor,” “Is Facebook Really Your Friend? Tips, Tricks and Strategies to Make Sure You're Getting the Most Benefit Out of America's Favorite Time waster,” and many more!

Check out the entire list at <http://www.catwriters.org/annual-info.html>.

The Conference truly is a terrific bargain. Full registration includes two breakfasts, one lunch, two dinners with cocktail hour, and two snacks — the food alone is worth about \$300 per person. And the networking opportunities, editor-agent appointments and all the other benefits are priceless.

We also just plain have a good time.

Okay, end of commercial. Hope to see you there. ♥

## REGISTER ONLINE

By CWA Acting Treasurer Fran Pennock Shaw

This year, folks, we once again offer you the option of registering online and paying by PayPal, or sending your registration form and check directly to Sharon Melnyk, our registrations coordinator. Here's that info:

- ◆ Conference Registration Form at <http://catwriters.org/10conference-registration.pdf>
- ◆ Conference Info and links to Paypal for Conference Registration <http://catwriters.org/annual-info.html>
- ◆ Conference registration form also in *MEOW* with mailing info, or contact Sharon at [cwaconfregistrarsam@gmail.com](mailto:cwaconfregistrarsam@gmail.com).

Believe me, the CWA Conference is the deal of a lifetime! Hurry to reserve your place now, and join us for a great weekend of feasting and fun, camaraderie, and opportunity for professional growth.



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## Cat & Dog Door Prizes Wanted!

By Nancy Peterson, CWA Door Prize Chair

**NOW** is the time our Door Prize Chair gathers items for our November CWA Conference. Please help by donating **cat or dog gifts ONLY**. Appropriate items include toys, collars, training products, grooming tools, etc.

Please bring any gifts with you to our conference. Or, if you prefer, mail them to the hotel. **Make sure that they arrive on Nov. 15, 16, or 17.** Please pack your items in as few boxes as possible. If you're sending a bunch of items, you may want to use UPS Ground or USPS flat rate boxes (\$10.35-\$13.95).

Send all boxes to **Shalon Wolf, Conference Planning Manager; HOLD FOR Cat Writers' Association Conference; Crowne Plaza White Plains Hotel, 66 Hale Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601; FOR NANCY PETERSON.**

For more details or questions, please call Nancy (after 7 p.m. Eastern time) at 301-951-9155 or email her at [cwa-nancy@starpower.net](mailto:cwa-nancy@starpower.net).

**P.S.** Leftover or unclaimed prizes will be donated to a local humane group, so all your donations will be worthwhile!

# It's CWA membership renewal time again!

If you want to remain a CWA member (and I sincerely hope you all do!!!) and be listed in the 2011 CWA Directory, you MUST pay your membership renewal fee (\$20.00) by December 31, 2010.

You can renew your membership online, right on the CWA web site, via PayPal. It's quick, easy, and secure. You can pay with funds from your own PayPal account, or use a credit card (VISA, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express)



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

You'll be transferred to a secure PayPal site —

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

That's all there is to it!

If you'd like to renew the old-fashioned way, send your check for \$20.00 (in U.S. funds) to the CWA Treasurer:

Fran Pennock Shaw  
1761 Wickersham Lane  
Lancaster PA 17603

Remember, the deadline for dues payment is December 31, 2010. If you haven't paid by then, you will NOT be listed in the 2011 CWA Directory. Soon, I'll be emailing each of you a copy of the information I currently have for your Directory listing. You can then verify or correct it, all via email. No forms to fill out!

CWA membership is a real bargain, especially in these tough times. Why not renew right now, while you're thinking about it?

– *Purrrrrs... Wendy Christensen, CWA Secretary*

## **CWA Officers Slate for 2011**

**By Linda Kay Hardie, CWA Nominating Committee Chair**

The 2010 CWA Nominating Committee is proud to announce the following slate of officers:

President – Susan M. Ewing  
Vice President – Dusty Rainbolt  
Secretary – Wendy Christensen  
Treasurer – Allene Tartaglia

Council of Directors (three open seats) – Ramona Marek, Clea Simon, Lyn Garson



Executive officers are elected annually. Council members hold two-year terms.

According to the CWA Bylaws, once the slate is published, officers are elected at the next annual membership meeting – this year it will be November 20, 2010, at the CWA Conference in White Plains, N.Y. Only professional members may vote, and they may vote prior to the meeting by mail if they wish. However, when the election is uncontested, no ballots are mailed. A majority of the members present and voting at the annual meeting can conduct business, including the election.

A more detailed explanation of the Nominating Committee's nominations and elections guidelines were printed in the summer *MEOW* and are posted on our web site at <http://www.catwriters.org/08nominating-guidelines.pdf> so that all members can read the rules and know how to participate in running for office and voting.

The CWA Bylaws are also now on our website.

This year's Nominating Committee (Linda Kay Hardie, Fran Pennock Shaw, and Barbara Florio Graham) thanks everyone who volunteered as potential candidates. The committee thanks those who volunteered and everyone who helped with the candidate search. ♥

## Calling All CWA “Kittens” & Cats: JOIN US FOR TNT TIME!

Think of TNT and you think of dynamite. If you've ever been to a CWA conference, you'll know that the letters stand for Thursday Night Team. Either way, it's an explosion. In the case of the conference, an explosion of fun as we put together our conference folders and stuff our door prize bags. The more volunteers we have, the sooner we can eat! This is a great way to unwind from a day of traveling, mingle with fellow CWA members, and enjoy snacks. Everybody, join us this year! The TNT will meet at 7 p.m. in a room to be announced. If you'd like to be part of the TNT festivities, please contact Su Ewing at [dogwriter@windstream.net](mailto:dogwriter@windstream.net).

## Recruit New Members for a Chance to Win the \$500 CWA Membership Bounty Prize

Central Life Sciences/Comfort Zone® with Feliway® is the gracious sponsor of a \$500 Membership Bounty Prize awarded to the CWA member who sponsors the most new members between last year's and this year's conferences. We have added 35 new members in the past year, and it's great to see the enthusiasm of the new members and their sponsors. We welcome our CWA newcomers, and we want more of them!

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

## ATTENTION: Non-attending Book Authors Information

CWA book authors who are unable to travel to White Plains, N.Y., for our annual conference may mail one piece of publicity to Debra White, CWA Non-attending Authors Coordinator, at 3301 Terrace Road, Tempe, AZ 85282, **by October 22**. Your publicity material will be placed on our information tables and will be available to conference attendees throughout the two days of seminars. No actual books will be accepted (Debra has to haul everything with her on an airplane), but you may submit, for example, a bookmark, flyer, cover overrun, book review, or mail order form. Materials will not be returned.

### Participation Guidelines:

- 1) This offer is valid only for CWA member authors who have paid their 2009 dues.
- 2) No more than one piece of publicity may be sent per non-attending author.
- 3) You may send up to 50 copies of that one piece of publicity material (no books!).
- 4) Material must be sent in advance, by mail, to Coordinator Debra White (address above). Include your email address to receive confirmation that your materials were received. **Deadline for mailing: October 22.**
- 5) We are not responsible for any materials sent too late for the conference, and we will not return leftover materials to you.

Thank you for your understanding, and we look forward to including your material on our information tables.

## Premier Pet Scholarship Drawing

Don't forget to email me if you want to enter the draw for the Premier Pet Products Scholarship. The draw will take place at this year's conference, with the winner using the prize to attend the 2011 conference — and you don't have to be present to win!

Just put Premier in the subject line, and send to me privately, not to the Prolist.

– *Bobbi*

Send to  
Barbara Florio Graham  
[BFG@SimonTeakettle.com](mailto:BFG@SimonTeakettle.com)

## New Addresses

- Please send email to **Heike Hagenguth** only at [h.hagenguth@gmail.com](mailto:h.hagenguth@gmail.com).
- **Janice Luza** has a new email address : [janiceluza@att.net](mailto:janiceluza@att.net).
- **Priscilla (P. I.) Maltbie** has a new address: 1950 E. 5th Street, #424, Long Beach, CA 90802. Her email address and telephone number remain the same.
- **Peg Silloway's** zip code is 21046, not 20146 as previously published.
- **Suzanne Stowe** has a new mailing address: 5363 D Algarrobo, Laguna Woods, CA 92637; Cell phone: 949-241-7045; New email: [meeser5@comline.com](mailto:meeser5@comline.com); Blogs: at [Crazy for Cats](#) and [Confessions of a Dog Sitter](#).
- **Debra J. White** has a new address: 2401 W. Southern Avenue, #342, Tempe, AZ 85282.

# Don't Miss Out...

## Join the 2010 CWA Bookstore and Book Signing Extravaganza!

By Lyn Garson, CWA Book Signing Event Chair

### CWA Bookstore

Again this year, CWA, and the Westchester Cat Show, will sponsor a "bookstore" booth during the CWA Writers' Conference. The book-selling booth will be open both Saturday and Sunday, from 10am to 5pm, during the hours of the cat show at the Westchester County Center, 198 Central Avenue, White Plains, N.Y. This location is just a few miles away from the CWA conference hotel. A free shuttle will run twice in the morning and twice in the afternoon to and from the Center and the CWA conference hotel.



### CWA Book Signing Event

In addition, CWA authors will be showcased on the main stage for the book signing extravaganza! This event will also be in conjunction with the Westchester Cat Show at the Westchester County Center, 198 Central Avenue, White Plains, N.Y. The book signing event will take place after our conference sessions on Saturday, November 20, from 3 pm to 5 pm. This will allow everyone to enjoy the CWA sessions, then head over to the County Center in time for the book signing event. At this point we will not be assigning specific time slots or shifts; however, this is subject to change depending on the final number of authors.

### Eligibility

Anyone who purchases full registration, or is a speaker, will be eligible to have his or her books sold in the CWA bookstore and participate in the signing.

In addition, you must sign up to volunteer for at least one 1-hour shift on Saturday to help at the book booth. CWA volunteers will be setting up your books in the book booth on Friday and then selling them, collecting money, etc. all day Saturday and all day Sunday, but we need your help Saturday to cover 1-hour blocks of time between 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., to allow our volunteers to attend conference sessions. Last year we handled close to 600 books! We can't do this without your help. Volunteering at the booth is a great opportunity to sell your books. Last year, authors who volunteered the most in the booth were the ones who sold the most books! Cat show attendees love to meet

cat authors in person and are more likely to purchase a book directly from the author, especially if you are willing to sign it on the spot.

### Options for Participating Authors

With either option, volunteers will set up and sell your books Saturday and Sunday but you must sign up to volunteer for at least one 1-hour shift on Saturday to help at the book booth. More

details on volunteer time slots are to be announced.

**Option 1:** CWA orders books for you through Barnes and Noble. CWA retains 20 percent of sales. Authors will still earn royalties from their publishers on any sales. Unsold books will be returned for you. Authors who choose this option will need to send book information to me: [Lyn.Garson@cox.net](mailto:Lyn.Garson@cox.net) **NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19.** Please send in the following format: book title, author's name as it appears on book, publisher, ISBN. Please note that due to space limitations we are limited in how many books we can order for each author.

**Option 2:** Authors bring their own books. CWA retains 10 percent of sales. Authors who choose this option will need to bring their books in person to the Westchester County Center on Friday before 3 p.m.; specific drop-off times to be announced. Authors will need to pick up their unsold books on Sunday. If you are interested in this option, please send an invoice to me at [Lyn.Garson@cox.net](mailto:Lyn.Garson@cox.net) and include the following information: title, author's name, mailing address, phone, and quantity you plan to bring. Please note that due to space limitations we are limited in how many books we can accept from each author.

### Recommendations

If you are self-published, you should bring your own books as B&N will not be able to order from a small press or publishers directly.

Based on last year's sales, the books that sell the most are books about... cats (not dogs, horses, or how to raise small children on a budget).

Sign up for extra volunteer shifts to sell more books – did I mention how much fun volunteering is?

Looking forward to welcoming all the new CWA kittens this year (I was a kitten last year) and seeing everyone in New York soon! ♥

# Meet the Editors & Agents for 2010

NOW is the time to make your editor/agent appointments for the upcoming CWA conference in White Plains, N.Y. **All requests must be made by November 10, 2010.**

CWA Agent/Editor Appointments Coordinator Heike Hagenuth is making appointments now; contact her with your requests at [h.hagenuth@gmail.com](mailto:h.hagenuth@gmail.com).

The venue will be the conference hotel, location TBA; and you will be informed of the exact meeting place and time. The deadline for requests is November 10. The final schedule will be sent to all attendees on November 12 and may be updated afterwards only at the request of agents/editors. Kindly read the guidelines below.

1) This offer is valid for CWA members who have paid their 2010 dues and full conference registration fees, and for guests who have paid full conference registration fees. All fees must be paid prior to booking the appointments. The maximum possible number of appointments is three. You are kindly requested to rank by priority. Clearly identify editors/agents by name, as it is not the role of the coordinator to assume and make matches. Please visit <http://www.catwriters.org/annual-info.htm> for updates on attending editors and agents. You can also email [h.hagenuth@gmail.com](mailto:h.hagenuth@gmail.com) for an updated list.

2) You may request additional appointments at a later time should you now wish to request fewer than three appointments or if any editor/agent cancels his or her attendance.

3) You are responsible to advise the coordinator in advance – as early as possible – in case you are involved in other activities and cannot be scheduled for appointments at certain times.

4) You are responsible to meet your appointments on time; agents/editors are not committed to reschedule your appointments if missed.

5) You can request your appointments by email to coordinator Heike Hagenuth at [h.hagenuth@gmail.com](mailto:h.hagenuth@gmail.com).

6) Kindly inform the coordinator as early as possible should you need to cancel your appointments.

7) In case of any editor/agent canceling his or her attendance, you will be notified by a general email directed to the list.

8) Requests for appointments or changes will be disregarded after the deadline, which is November 10, 2010.

9) Please note that your requests and any questions are welcome and will be attended to as early as possible; however, they cannot always be answered immediately due to geographic location/time zone (Cairo/Egypt) and work situation of the coordinator.

10) Available agents & editors as of October 6, 2010:

Wayne Barr, Acquisitions Manager,  
Barron's Educational Series



Andrew DePrisco, Acquisitions Editor,  
Bowtie Press



Susan Logan, Editor, *Cat Fancy*



Rita Rosenkranz, Agent, Rita  
Rosenkranz Literary Agency



Katharine Sands, Agent, Sarah Jane Freymann  
Literary Agency



Anne A. Simpkinson, Editor,  
[www.guideposts.com](http://www.guideposts.com)



Diane West, Publisher, *New York Tails*



The list of participating editors, publishers, and agents will be updated continually as our invitations are accepted, so check our web site at [www.catwriters.org](http://www.catwriters.org). Remember, appointments will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis, and all requests must be made by November 10. ♥

**POUNCE on this great opportunity to meet  
with top-flight editors & agents!**



**Deadline for requests: November 10**



\*\*\*\*\*  
★ **Writers! Give Yourself a Promotion (Schedule continued)** ★  
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**Friday, November 19 (continued)**

**1:40-2:30 [B] Andrew Deprisco, Diane West, Susan Logan, and Rita Rosenkranz: Editor and Agent Panel**

What's the latest and great in publishing?

**1:40-2:30 [c] Vickie Fisher: What Color is My Cat? (Or Mother Nature Paints A Purrfect Picture!)**

What's the difference between a lavender point and a lilac point? Shakespeare might say they are roses by any other name.

Vickie Fisher, president of TICA, offers a beginner's guide to identifying cat colors, patterns, and breeds.

**2:40 - 3:30 [A] Dena Harris: Is Facebook Really Your Friend? Tips, Tricks, & Strategies to Make Sure You're Getting The Most Benefit Out of America's Favorite Time Waster**

Alongside Twitter, FB is one of America's most popular social networking sites. But are you creating meaningful connections that will help market your work... or just racking up numbers? In this interactive workshop, Facebook addict and cat humorist Dena Harris explores the issues and questions that keep us up at night, including: How can I best promote my FB page? Do "FAN" pages help sell books? Should I import my blog to FB? How to create posts with punch? What's the difference between a FB page and FB group? Why don't I have a better score on Farmville???

**2:40-3:30 [B] Anne A. Simpkinson: A Look at the Inspirational Marketplace**

The freelance landscape is in flux and the change affects all markets including the inspirational one. This talk will focus on what writers need to do to keep the assignments flowing, with a particular emphasis on the inspirational outlets, especially *Guideposts* magazine and *Guidepost.com*.

**2:40-3:30 [C] Katharine Sands: The Reinvented Writer, Part I (2-hour session)**

Today's writers need to understand how to succeed and maximize their works in the new media and literary marketplace. Do you know how work is sold and how the writer is compensated? Do you know why the writing you do about your writing is as important as the writing itself? This comprehensive session answers these questions and provides key information on many other "must know" issues. New York City-based literary agent Katharine Sands takes participants step-by-step through the success checklist for the getting-published process. From content-creation to contract; first writes to last rights, focusing on both craft and career, you will learn essential secrets to practicing PitchCraft, including what to do – and what not to do – when you set out to woo and win a literary agent, the easy-to-fix mistakes many writers make when querying agents, and seven surefire techniques that get you out of the slushpile; and how to identify your selling points and sales engines, whet an agent's appetite, get editors to say "yes," make the perfect pitch, build a media platform, and create a writing career.

**3:40-4:30 [A] Bill Pflieger: Webcasting Your Expertise**

Today's print writers need to learn about using online video. Why, you say? Increase your appeal as a website contributor; land TV appearances when promoting your next project; start your own VLog (video blog) or YouTube channel to build your brand; have your own live broadcast and record it as a downloadable podcast. Bill shows how easy it is by creating and recording a live online video broadcast during the class. Come learn how!

**3:40-4:30 [B] Andrew Deprisco: What Makes a Cat Book Sell?**

What cat people are willing to buy? What topics sell? What propels a pet book into the main stream?

**3:40-4:30 [C] Katharine Sands: The Reinvented Writer, Part 2**

**4:40-5:30 [A] Wayne Barr: Inquiring Minds Want to Know**

Do you have questions about the world of book publishing? Wayne Barr knows the answers and he's willing to share them in this question/answer session.

**4:40-5:30 [B] Anne Leighton: The Zen of the Press Release**

The Who, What, When, Where, and Why, plus Ways of finding work as a press release writer.

**4:40-5:30 [C] Beth Adelman: Grammar Myths and Truths**

Is ending a sentence with a preposition a mistake up with which writers should not put? Is it forbidden to boldly split an infinitive? And what about beginning a sentence with a conjunction? Grammarians agree that subjects and their verbs, pronouns and their antecedents should agree, and that modifiers shouldn't dangle. We'll look at some basic rules and debunk some common myths. We'll also talk about who to turn to (to whom do you turn?) when grammar questions arise.

**6:30-10:00 Reception, followed by Dinner with speaker Katherine Miller, Ph.D., CAAB, CPDT: Curiosity Could Save the Cat: Current Scientific Inquiry into Factors Affecting the Well-being and Outcomes of Cats in Shelters**

(continued)

## ***Writers! Give Yourself a Promotion (Schedule continued)***

**Saturday, November 20 (continued)**

**7:30-8 Registration**

**8-9:30 Breakfast Meeting**

**8-9:00 [A] Tech Breakfast with Bill Pflieger: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Technology for Writers**

Wise old saying: “Some lures are made to catch fish, and some to catch fishermen.” Too many gadgets make it tough to decide which ones are useful, and which are useless. Bill shows some new useful gadgets as well as tools on the Internet writers find useful, and how they increase efficiency, reduce cost, and generally help you do your work. Oh, and there’s also breakfast. Eat and learn!

**9:40-10:30 [A] Diane West: Using Local Markets as a Springboard to Success**

Established writers have known one of the key secrets for great writing for a long time: looking in your own backyard both for inspiration and publication. This talk will help to both identify great cat stories just waiting to ‘pounce’ right in your own neighborhood and then get them published in your community newspaper, Web hub, mobile news, or other local media. These ‘stepping stones’ often lead to bigger publishing waters!

**9:40-10:30 [B] Amy D. Shojai: Kindle-ization: The Ebook Option**

Amy Shojai discusses her journey of bringing back out-of-print nonfiction books into an Ebook (Kindle) edition, the challenges involved, and potential advantages. She also discusses other e-publishing formats and options.

**9:40-10:30 [C] Irene S. Levine, PhD: Book Promotion 2.0**

Learn the nuts and bolts of the new online tools successful authors are using in their book publicity plans in the Web 2.0 era. (Promoting Your Book Using Social Media)

**10:40-11:30 [A] Mary Shafer: Online Newsrooms: Why You Need One, How To Build It**

Learn how to add an online newsroom to your professional website and what to put in it, including the top 10 reasons to have an online newsroom, the top 5 functions that attract media attention, and the top 20 elements they’ll expect to find there.

**10:40-11:30 [B] Michele C. Hollow: Ghostwriting**

Leave your ego behind, and write in the voice of others. Whether it is a book, magazine article, or blog post, your role is to capture the voice of another person and deliver that message. This seminar covers how to ghost write, how to collaborate, and how to find clients.

**10:40-11:30 [C] Deb M. Eldredge, DVM: Translating Vet-ese**

Veterinarians speak a different language from your readers. Learn how to accurately translate technical jargon into text your reader understands.

**11:40 - 12:30 [A] Ruth E. Thaler-Carter: Expanding Your Writing Territory**

Even the most successful cat writers can hit a dry spot – run out of ideas, lose a major client, feel burnt-out. Against that day, or if that day has arrived, it’s a good idea to have alternatives in mind. Ruth E. Thaler-Carter will offer tips on ways to expand a writing business into new topics, clients, and services that will keep your career out of the litter box.

**11:40-12:30 [B] Patricia Fry: Building Promotion into your Book and the Post-publication Book Proposal**

Learn how to build promotion (and saleability) into your book before it is a book.

**11:40-12:30 [C] Carolyn Wilman: How to Market Yourself for Free!**

Learn how to promote yourself, your writing, and your publications using inexpensive or FREE marketing methods. We will discuss how you can take advantage of the Internet and social media networks, along with getting yourself featured, as an author or writer, in the media.

**12:40-2:00 Lunch, with speaker Minda Zetlin: Surviving the Future: How to Make It as a Freelance Writer in the Era of E-books and Demand Media**

Minda Zetlin looks at how freelance writing profession is changing, the challenges of making a living in a world where the “MSM” (mainstream media) is on the decline and the rulebook we all used to know seems to have been tossed out the window.

**2:30-5:00 Book Signing (at the Westchester Cat Show) ♥**



## Writers! Give Yourself a Promotion (Speaker Bios continued)

**Susan Logan** is the editor of *Cat Fancy*, the world's most widely read cat care and lifestyle magazine. A veteran in print journalism with more than 20 years of experience, she has spent the past 10 years devoted to pet and veterinary topics at BowTie Magazines. During her seven-year tenure at *Cat Fancy*, the magazine has received five Muse Medallions® in the national magazine category, and Logan was awarded the Muse Medallion® twice for her monthly column. A lifelong pet lover, Logan is the proud mom of 2-year-old Maine Coon mixes, Madison and Sophie. When she isn't writing and editing, Logan enjoys singing, running, and hanging out with her two-legged and four-legged family and friends.

**Susan Waller Miccio** writes and edits web content for the Delaware Department of State on weekdays and morphs into a pet writer on weekends. Her book *The Tibetan Spaniel — A Gift from the Roof of the World* is considered the classic work on her beloved breed.

**Katherine Miller**, Ph.D., CAAB, CPDT, is the assistant science advisor and project manager of national programs at the ASPCA.

**Sam Moore**, a Marketing Technology Consultant who earned his stripes helping Fortune 500 companies break into Social Networking, become savvy in Web-Based Marketing, and get their complex Digital Assets under control. Sam is the go-to guy for all those techy things we know we need, but need someone to figure out for us. Read more about Sam at: [www.resonetrics.com](http://www.resonetrics.com) and [www.technologyformarketers.com](http://www.technologyformarketers.com).

**Robin A. F. Olson** created one of the first online chat groups on AOL in the early 1990's, before "social networking" even existed. Her latest passion is building a Cat-Centric Community at [www.coveredincathair.com](http://www.coveredincathair.com), where Olson chronicles her adventures doing cat rescue and whines about the challenges of living with eight cats of her own. When Olson isn't updating her Blog or Facebook Status, or Tweeting, she's busy working as a graphic designer and author. Robin currently resides in Connecticut.

**Bill Pflieger** is a computer tech consultant, writer, and speaker, living and working in Woodstock, N.Y., who writes about new technology. His work has appeared in national publications such as *Computerworld, Inc., Razor, Games*, and others; Internet publications like *Inc.com, GeekWeekly.com, and Learnvest.com*; as well as a popular technology column in the *Woodstock Times*. He appears regularly as the "Tech Guru" on WDST's "Woodstock Roundtable." He is co-author (with Minda Zetlin) of the critically acclaimed book *"The Geek Gap: Why Business and Technology Professionals Don't Understand Each Other and Why They Need Each Other To Survive."* He is a popular speaker at conferences, corporations, and universities on how to create better communication and cooperation between "geek" and "suit" coworkers.

**Dan Poynter** is the author of more than 120 books, has been a publisher since 1969, and is a Certified Speaking Professional (CSP). His seminars have been featured on *CNN*, his books have been pictured in *The Wall Street Journal*, and his story has been told in *US News & World Report*. The media come to Dan because he is the leading authority on book publishing. His mission is to see that people do not die with a book still inside them.

**DeAnne Radaj**, the owner of Bante Design LLC, is a designer who specializes in Integrative Lifestyle Design (the fusion of Eastern and Western interior design philosophies incorporating feng shui and healthy home principles). Ms. Radaj is an writer, design consultant, and radio show host. Ms. Radaj has been featured in print, radio, and TV. She has authored *Designing the Life of Your Dreams from the Outside In* and *Feng Shui for Teens*, and is a contributor to Design2Share, casaGURU, and the Diva Toolbox.

**Rita Rosenkranz** started her agency in 1990 and has a full-spectrum non-fiction list ([www.ritarosenkranzliteraryagency.com](http://www.ritarosenkranzliteraryagency.com)). Rita works with major publishing houses, as well as regional publishers that handle niche markets. She looks for projects that present familiar *subjects freshly or lesser-known subjects presented commercially*.

**Katharine Sands**, a literary agent with the Sarah Jane Freymann Literary Agency, has worked with a varied list of authors who publish a diverse array of books. She is the agent provocateur of *Making the Perfect Pitch: How to Catch a Literary Agent's Eye*, a collection of pitching wisdom from leading literary agents.

(continued)

## Writers! Give Yourself a Promotion (Speaker Bios continued)

**Mary Shafer**, a CWA member, is a full-time freelance writer, author, and independent publisher in Bucks County, Pa., who supports her writing and publishing habit as a marketing consultant to small and micro-businesses.

**Amy D. Shojai**, CABC, is the author of 23 pet care titles (including several “Kindle-ized” books), is a past president and co-founder of CWA, and has been reinventing herself for years.

**Anne A. Simpkinson** is the online managing editor for [www.guideposts.com](http://www.guideposts.com).

**Ruth E. Thaler-Carter** ([www.writerruth.com](http://www.writerruth.com)) is an award-winning freelance writer, editor, proofreader, desktop publisher, and speaker whose motto is “I can write about anything!”™ She writes profile, news, and feature articles for international, national, regional, and local publications and organizations; plans, writes, edits, and produces newsletters for associations and companies; writes annual reports for nonprofits and associations; provides conference coverage; writes and edits website content for several membership and not-for-profit organizations; and makes presentations to professional organizations about freelancing, newsletters, launching nonprofits, editing and proofreading, websites and “whatever someone might ask me to talk about!” She is the author/publisher of “Get Paid to Write! Getting Started as a Freelance Writer”; author of the Editorial Freelancers Association’s “Freelancing 101: Launching Your Editorial Business”; and co-owner of Communication Central ([www.communication-central.com](http://www.communication-central.com)), which hosts an annual conference for freelancers in Rochester, N.Y.

**Diane West** is founder and publisher of *New York Tails Magazine*, an award-winning publication covering the people and pets of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, and founder of the 400-plus member New York City Cat Meetup Club. Visit the online version at [www.newyorktails.com](http://www.newyorktails.com).

**Carolyn Wilman**, with tens of thousands of dollars in annual winnings from hundreds of sweepstakes, truly is a Contest Queen ([www.contestqueen.com](http://www.contestqueen.com)). Carolyn’s wins include everything: from trips to Europe, the United States, the Caribbean, and Canada; to a meeting with Sting; a year’s supply of pizza, bubble gum, and goldfish snacks; to theatre tickets, DVDs, and CDs. Carolyn also has worked in sales and marketing for over two decades. She is the founder of ContestQueen.com, a business consulting and promotional marketing firm. Her efforts as a marketing expert landed her on the cover of *Marketing Magazine* in 2006 and was named by *MORE Magazine* as one of Canada’s Top 40 Women over 40 in 2007. ♥

## Make Conference Reservations Now!

By Wendy Christensen, CWA Secretary

If you’re planning to attend the Conference (and I hope you are!), don’t forget to make your hotel reservations soon. To get our discount rate, you must make your reservations **no later than October 27**.

Crowne Plaza White Plains Hotel  
66 Hale Avenue  
White Plains, New York 10601  
914-682-0050 or 800-227-6963  
[www.crowneplaza.com/whiteplainsny](http://www.crowneplaza.com/whiteplainsny)  
(Enter group code CAT)

**ROOM RATE:** CWA has reserved a block of rooms for CWA Conference attendees at a special rate of \$119 (single/double) plus tax per night. Ask for the International Cat Writers Association room rate. Make reservations by October 27, after which rates go up. (No pets allowed, other than service animals).

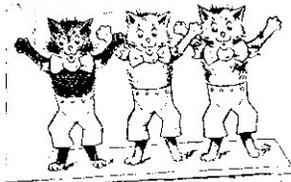
I’m looking forward to seeing all of you at the Conference.



## Quarterly Quote

*Make us, ourselves, to be true friends to animals  
and so to share the blessings of the merciful.*

— Albert Schweitzer



## NEW MEMBERS *[member numbers in brackets]*

**Rebecca M. HalAngie Bailey** [A634-10], 10957 Ridge Point Boulevard, Chisago City, MN 55013; 651-257-1468 (home), 612-581-7664 (business), 651-257-1655 (fax); Email: [angie@catladyland.org](mailto:angie@catladyland.org); Web site: [www.catladyland.org](http://www.catladyland.org), [www.eclecticcatladyland.blogspot.com](http://www.eclecticcatladyland.blogspot.com). Angie Bailey specializes in cat humor. Her sponsor is Roberta Beach Jacobson.

**Benjamin Beardwood** [P625-10], 21230 Chagall Road, Topanga, CA 90290; 818-704-9364 (home), 310-228-0586 (business); Email: [benjaminbeardwood@yahoo.com](mailto:benjaminbeardwood@yahoo.com); Web site: [www.benjaminbeardwood.com](http://www.benjaminbeardwood.com). Benjamin specializes in photography and video film editing. He's the co-author of *Kundun the Golden Cat*. His sponsor is Beverly Russell.

**Nancy Boyd** [P632-10], 26 Calam Avenue, Ossining, NY 10562; 914-841-2957 (home), 888-833-1725 (office), 914-944-0124 (fax); Email: [nancy@brightwings.com](mailto:nancy@brightwings.com). Nancy specializes in integrative medicine and animal behavior. She's been nominated for multiple DWAA awards, and has won 2 DWAA Maxwell Medallions. Her sponsor is Deb Eldredge, DVM.

**Carrie Dow** [P641-10], 12372 West Asbury Place, Lakewood, CO 80228; 303-523-3758; Email: [Missmoo303@yahoo.com](mailto:Missmoo303@yahoo.com), [petexaminer@yahoo.com](mailto:petexaminer@yahoo.com); Web site: [www.missmoooblog.blogspot.com](http://www.missmoooblog.blogspot.com). Carrie is an author and freelance writer. She's interested in animal shelters and welfare groups, editing, grammar, and punctuation. Her sponsor is Wendy Christensen.

**Ann Dziemianowicz** [P637-10], 41 Parkview Drive, Bloomfield, NJ 07003; 973-338-0301 (home), 973-752-3563 (business); Email: [anndziemianowicz@gmail.com](mailto:anndziemianowicz@gmail.com); Facebook: Careers for your cat; Twitter: Career for your Cat. Ann is the author of *Careers for your Cat* (Ten Speed Press, 2010). She specializes in cat humor. She's a member of the International Women's Writing Guild and the SCBWI. Ann's sponsor is Ingrid King.

**Sharon Eisen** [P638-10], 14 Merwin Brook Road, Brookfield, CT 06804; 203-746-6200 (home), 203-77505157 (business), 203-740-1293 (fax); Email: [Eisen1130@mac.com](mailto:Eisen1130@mac.com). Sharon is a cat veterinarian and a writer who specializes in cat stories. She's a member of the AVMA. Her sponsor is Dusty Rainbolt.

**Denise Fleck** [P633-10], 2416 West Victory Boulevard, #213, Burbank, CA 91506; 818-951-0162 (home), 818-951-7962 (business); Email: [denise@sunnydogink.com](mailto:denise@sunnydogink.com); Web site: [www.sunnydogink.com](http://www.sunnydogink.com). Denise specializes in pet first aid and CPR, senior pets, and pet disaster preparedness. She's a member of DWAA and of the SCART-Surf City Animal Response Team. Her sponsor is Deb Eldredge, DVM.

**Sushiela Goodwin** [P626-10], 2062 N. Vine Street, Hollywood, CA 90068; 323-462-8818 (home), 323-467-1447 (business); Email: [golplnsgd@pacbell.net](mailto:golplnsgd@pacbell.net). Sushiela is a fine arts painter and illustrator. She's the illustrator of *Kundun the Golden Cat*. Her sponsor is Beverly Russell.

**Lorie Huston** [P639-10], 306 Bellman Avenue, Warwick, RI 02889; 401-921-6369; Email: [LorieAHuston@cs.com](mailto:LorieAHuston@cs.com); Web sites: [www.pet-health-care-gazette.com](http://www.pet-health-care-gazette.com), [www.lorie-huston.com](http://www.lorie-huston.com). Lorie is a veterinarian and writer who specializes in cat health, cat care, cat behavior, and veterinary medicine. She's affiliated with the AVMA, RIVMA (Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association), and VIN (Veterinary Information Network). Lorie Huston's sponsor is Darlene Arden.

**Kimberly J. McCloskey** [A640-10], 49 Morningside Lane, Murphy, NC 28906; 828-835-4883 (home), 706-963-0408; Email: [Kimberly.J.McCloskey@gmail.com](mailto:Kimberly.J.McCloskey@gmail.com); Twitter: kim\_m; Web site: [kim@va-partner.com](http://kim@va-partner.com). Kimberly is new to the world of writing. She writes, "My passion is special needs, sickly and older kitties – the ones no one wants. I ultimately plan to get into cat rescue on a more official basis – and I intend to write about it, too!" Kim McCloskey's sponsor is Wendy Christensen.

**Leslie A. Masson** [P623-10], 1638 Hyatt Avenue, Peekskill, NY 10566; 914-739-0526 (home), 914-739-5408; Email: [L.Masson@verizon.net](mailto:L.Masson@verizon.net). Leslie's expertise is in event promotion and public relations. She's been the publicist for the Westchester Cat Show for 25 years. Her sponsors are Amy Shojai, Allia Zobel-Nolan, and Jill Richardson, DVM.

**Samantha Mittelmeier** [P631-10], 9584 Route 6, Kane, PA 16735; 814-558-7535; Email: [Samantha.mittelmeier@gmail.com](mailto:Samantha.mittelmeier@gmail.com). Samantha specializes in cat behavior, breed profiles, and shelter adoptions. Her sponsor is Dusty Rainbolt.

**Allie Phillips** [P636-10], 5393 Harbor Court Drive, Alexandria, VA 22315; 703-971-7607; Email: [allie@alliephillips.com](mailto:allie@alliephillips.com); Web site: [www.alliephillips.com](http://www.alliephillips.com). Allie is an attorney who specializes in criminal prosecution of animal cruelty and the connection between animal cruelty and human violence, pets caught in the recession, cat rescue and sheltering, human-animal bond, therapy animals for crime victims, and pet-friendly domestic violence shelters. She is VP of No Paws Left Behind, council member of the Michigan State Bar, Animal Law Section, and member of the Maryland Bar Association. Allie's sponsor is Dusty Rainbolt.

**Eric Pinder** [P627-10], 168 East Mason Street, #8, Berlin, NH 03570; 603-752-4787 (home), 603-321-7552 (business); Email: [eric@ericpinder.com](mailto:eric@ericpinder.com), [epinder@ncia.net](mailto:epinder@ncia.net); Web site: [www.ericpinder.com](http://www.ericpinder.com). Eric specializes in nature writing and children's books. He's the author of *Cat in the Clouds* (The History Press, 2009), a children's book about a cat who lived atop Mt. Washington. Eric's sponsor is Wendy Christensen.

**Joyce Sammons** (pen name: Elisa Black-Taylor) [P622-10], 112 Brittany Court, Hodges, SC 29653; 864-344-5378 (home); Email: [angeleyesportraits@yahoo.com](mailto:angeleyesportraits@yahoo.com), [dvdjunkie2008@aol.com](mailto:dvdjunkie2008@aol.com); Web sites: <http://www.furbytheferalfeline.shutterfly.com>, <http://www.catster.com/cats/1135737>, <http://www.pictures-of-cats.org>. Joyce is a writer and feline photographer. Her interests in pet welfare include editorials on news, health, and human interest. She does web site design and devises advertising concepts for cats. She is a professional news editorial writer for Pictures-of-cats.org. Her sponsor is Wendy Christensen.

*(continued)*

## Bits & Bytes

Award-winning cartoonist and blogger **Jane Denny** has a new section on her web site: *The Feral Cat Report*, with a subsection, *The Young and the Feral*, which documents the soap-opera dramas of the feral cats in her mother's yard. See <http://www.thepridecartoon.com/feralcatreport.html>.

**Beth Adelman** has co-authored a new book, *The Law of Sobriety*, which combines the power of positive thinking with action steps to create and maintain a clean and sober life filled with renewed purpose. Co-author and psychotherapist Sherry Gaba, the life-coaching expert on VH1's *Celebrity Rehab*, goes beyond conventional 12-step programs to show how to unite the Law of Attraction with one's authentic self to create a powerful recovery. See <http://www.hcibooks.com/p-4039-the-law-of-sobriety.aspx>.

**Barbara Florio Graham** is contributing articles on publicity, public relations, crisis communications, and speaking to the website for SOURCES, a searchable, deep-indexed database of Canadian experts, media spokespersons, and other sources of information. Check this at <http://gateway.sources.com/Membership-BFG.php>, and if you decide to sign up, put **Grah01** in the Referral Code box on the web registration form.

CWA member **Debra Halborn**, author of *Greetings From The Starcat Cluster ~ It's The Place in Space!* is also a member of SCBWI. Debra's rousing sing-along poem "The Barn-Cat Jamboree" won 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual SCBWI Writing Contest; Picture Book Category. The Award Ceremony was held in September.

*Who Moved My Mouse? A Self-Help Book for Cats (Who Don't Need Any Help)* by **Dena Harris**, will be available from Ten Speed Press on October 19. Dena has put up a web site, but hadn't officially launched it yet when last heard from. See [www.selfhelpforcats.com](http://www.selfhelpforcats.com).

**Diane Leigh and Marilee Geyer's** heart-rending, award-winning book *One at a Time: A Week in an American Animal Shelter* is entering its 5<sup>th</sup> printing. *One at a Time* won a previous CWA award, as well as an ASPCA Humane Issues award. "We are gratified that the book is still educating readers about the continuing plight of homeless shelter animals," the authors say. For copies, contact No Voice Unheard at P.O. Box 4171, Santa Cruz, CA 95063; [www.NoVoiceUnheard.org](http://www.NoVoiceUnheard.org).

**Tim Link** has a new radio show called "Critter Corner" on the All Paws Pet Talk Radio Network, airing on WLBE 790 AM on Sundays at 1-2 p.m. EST. Tim wants CWA guests – pet-related book authors, celebrities with pets, pet rescue advocates, members with pet-related product businesses, and those offering unique pet-related services such as search-and-rescue training, CPR, and guide dog training. Contact Tim at 404-422-6355.

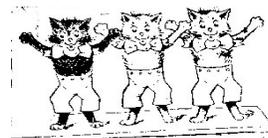
**Fran Pennock Shaw's** gift book of poems and punch lines, which accompany 70 silly cat photographs taken by an Italian photographer, was published by Barron's Educational Series.

**Amy D. Shojai's** book *Complete Care for Your Aging Dog* has been re-released (updated/revised) and is now available on Amazon Kindle. It will soon also be available as a print version. The E-book versions have hot-links to interviewed sources and suggested products/further reading. Three of Amy's books have now been updated/revised for Kindle: *Complete Care for Your Aging Cat*, *Complete Care for Your Aging Dog*, and *Complete Kitten Care*. Additional books will be "kindle-ized" in the near future as well. Everyone is invited to "tag" these books, and reviewers may contact Amy for a .pdf copy. In addition, Amy has contracted with an independent publisher to bring these titles out in other E-formats as well as POD. Last, but not least, Amy's 23rd pet book, *The American Pit Bull Terrier*, is now available.

**Clea Simon** has sold a three-book "pet noir" mystery series to

## WELCOME MAT

(continued)



### NEW MEMBERS [member numbers in brackets]

**Roxanne Willems Snopek** [P628-10], 35293 Gingerhills Drive, Abbotsford, BC, Canada V3G 3A1; 604-557-0672 (home); Email: [rsnopek@shaw.ca](mailto:rsnopek@shaw.ca); Web site: [www.roxannesnopek.com](http://www.roxannesnopek.com); Blog: [www.roxannewriteson.wordpress.com](http://www.roxannewriteson.wordpress.com). Roxanne is a former CWA member who is re-joining us. She specializes in health care, behavior, human-animal bond, and the child abuse/domestic violence/animal abuse connection. Her sponsor is Arden Moore.

**Kellene Stockwell** [P624-10], 1630 Shadow Lane, Sparks, NV 89434-1771; 775-530-3855 (cell); Email: [kstockwell@ktvn.com](mailto:kstockwell@ktvn.com); Blog: [Kellene23@wordpress.com](http://Kellene23@wordpress.com). Kellene is a news producer for KTVN. She also writes cat advice columns for *Petfolio* magazine. Her sponsor is Wendy Christensen.

**Joan Hustace Walker** [P629-10], 820 Yorkshire Trail, Chesapeake, VA 23322; 757-546-7483; Email: [joanhwalker@verizon.net](mailto:joanhwalker@verizon.net); Web site: [www.joanhwalker.com](http://www.joanhwalker.com) (under construction). Joan is a former CWA member who is rejoining us. She specializes in health, research, welfare, special interest stories, and photography. She's a member of the ASJA and the DWAA. Her sponsor is Wendy Christensen.

**Debbie Waller** [P630-10], 228 W. 7th Street, Irving, TX 75060-5203; 972-254-1256 (home), 214-995-9240 (business), 972-254-1256 (fax); Email: [DebbieWaller@petlover.com](mailto:DebbieWaller@petlover.com). Debbie is a writer and copy editor with *City + County Pets* magazine. She specializes in pet therapy and rehabilitation and rescue. Her sponsor is Dusty Rainbolt.

**Jennifer Charron Ward** [P635-10], 1878 Earlmont Road, Berkley, MI 48072; 248-563-9872; Email: [jennifercharronward@gmail.com](mailto:jennifercharronward@gmail.com); Web site: [www.jennifercharronwardbooks.com](http://www.jennifercharronwardbooks.com). Jennifer is a novelist who is interested in animal welfare. Her first novel, the award-winning *Running Home*, was a fictional story of her rescued dog, Byron. Jennifer's sponsor is Nancy Peterson.

**John L. Watkins** [P621-10], 1695 Harts Run, Chamblee, GA 30341; 770-458-4957, 404-663-0538 (business); Email: [John@greatestcatgolfer.com](mailto:John@greatestcatgolfer.com); Web sites: [www.greatestcatgolfer.com](http://www.greatestcatgolfer.com), [www.golfertail.com](http://www.golfertail.com). John is an attorney and author of humorous cat books. He's the owner of Ocelot Atlanta, LLC. His books include *A Golfer's Tail* and *Life with Two Black and Silver Cats*. John's sponsor is Ingrid King. ♥

Poisoned Pen Press. The series, which features a bad-girl animal psychic and her crotchety tabby, will debut in April 2011 with *Dogs Don't Lie*. For more info and an excerpt, please see <http://www.cleasimon.com>.

**Debra J. White** was a finalist in the 2010 SouthWest Writers Writing Contest with an entry that is part of a series of books with a recurring feline character named the Great Harriet. No agent wants to represent Harriet yet, Debra reports, but Harriet fuels the Breaking the Chain Art and Creative Writing Contest and is a very special cat.

**Allia Zobel's** new book, *The Dreamy, Fish, Happy Bible Storybook*, is available online and stand-alone bookstores. Okay, so it doesn't have cats in it per se, but it does have her cats' favorite miracle: the multiplication of the loaves and fish. Plus, it has lots of fun flaps and was illustrated by a brilliant artist, Nadine Wickenden. Order from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, or Zondervan. ♥

# The Cat's MEOW

## My Cat Family: How to Find a Lost Cat Writer

By MEOW Editor Karen Payne

Every time I see a note on my local cat chat list about a lost cat or a cat in need of a home, I pounce on it and e-mail extensive advice to the inquirer. Lately I've been suspecting that I spend far too much energy on other people's problems and far too little on my own. My suspicions were confirmed when I spotted this notice, which was mysteriously smuggled out of my house and onto the condo bulletin board:

### URGENT! REWARD! Please Find Lost Mom!

Situation: Desperately need help to find our human mom, who is a cat writer. Lost somewhere in the vicinity (her car is in the parking lot). We need her to come home to us!

Description: Shoe size 6-1/2, and her shoes are great to sleep on. Very long hair, perfect for kneading. Yummy food and treats provider. Great feather toy-waver. Formerly had regular habits (mostly played with us or sat at a machine called a computer, and slept 8 hours every night), but has been distracted lately. We think she is running around trying to help people and their cats. If spotted, please trap this woman immediately and return her to us!!

Details: Our mom has a good heart, and that's how she got to be our mom – she rescued all of us from the street and gave us a good home. She used to be carefree and happy – she would tickle the piano keys and play a lot with us kids, and we

all had fun. Lately she has had a lot on her mind. We know because we understand her mind and sense her feelings. She plays less, sleeps less, and sits at her computer less – all bad signs!! She needs vetting! As soon as she feeds us, she leaves us alone for hours.

We've read her e-mail and listened to her phone conversations, agreeing to help with this or that cat problem – somebody else's cat problems! Well, she's going to have a cat problem at home pretty soon! This has to stop before she gets so lost that she can't find her way back home!!! She's already

placed hundreds of cats in permanent homes and had many others sterilized, helped people find countless lost cats, and advised folks on how to take care of multitudes more. We're fed up! She's supposed to be a writer, not a full-time cat rescuer. It's time for our mom to pay attention to what really matters – US! – and her writing about cats.

Please trap her humanely and return her to us ASAP.

The reward is huge purrs of thanks! And we promise to put her on a strict program of exercise, meditation, music, and playing with

us. We'll wrap her in a harness and tie the leash to her computer chair so she can't wander off. We'll use our claws and teeth to keep her on task. We'll release her in the house only for supervised activities, and we'll monitor her e-mail and phone to be sure she doesn't fall back into her old habits of trying to solve other humans' and strays' problems.

Please, we need our mom back! Hurry! We're at the windows and keeping watch on top of the cat tree.

— *Countess Catlyn and the Cat Clowder* 🐾

P.S. She answers to "Karen." Bait the trap with chocolate!



Photo by Dan Oria © 2009 Princess Kitty, Inc.

Bring her home! Karen & Star Jasmine



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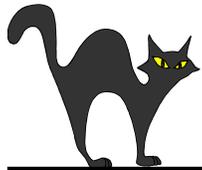
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CWA Secretary  
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[christensen@catlas.mv.com](mailto:christensen@catlas.mv.com)



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Miami, FL 33243-0784

*First Class*

A cartoon illustration of a hand holding a large black clipboard. On the clipboard is a white sheet of paper with a metal clip at the top. The paper contains the following text:

**Deadlines!**  
**CWA Conference Dates—Nov. 18-21**  
Conference Hotel Registration — Oct. 27  
(rate increase after this date)  
Non-attending Author Material — Oct. 22  
Editor/Agent Appt. Requests Due — Nov. 10  
Door Prizes Due — See page 5 inside

**Your CWA Membership  
Renewal is due by Dec. 31, 2010!**

**2011 Article Deadlines for MEOW:**  
Winter 2011 issue — January 3  
Spring 2011 issue — April 3  
Summer 2011 issue — June 3  
**Note: Deadlines are firm!**  
**All submissions welcome!**

**Make a Note!**

~ Heartfelt thanks to the generous sponsors who make our CWA Conference possible ~  
~ Special thanks to our generous *MEOW* contributors ~ including cartoonist Jane Denny ~