



Meow

The Award-Winning Newsletter of the Cat Writers' Association ♦ Winter 2011

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

Chock-Full of Ideas: The Cat Writers' Association 17th Annual Writers' Conference!

CONFERENCE REPORT BY BARBARA STRETTON

"We're conspirators, not competitors," said Dan Poynter in his presentation "Book Promotion for Writers, Introverts, and Other Reluctant Marketers" at the 17th Annual CWA Writers' Conference in White Plains, N.Y. In this one sentence, he summed up the spirit of CWA. Cat writers are not in competition with each other, but supportive of everyone's talent, expertise, and goals. This was especially evident at the conference on November 18-20, 2010.

The fun began on Thursday night with the bag-stuffing party organized by CWA Past President Nancy Peterson, which gave everyone a chance to preview the wonderful goodies supplied by our many sponsors, and to get to know each other. Especially fun was the roundtable at the end where all participants (and there was a big crowd this year – word is getting out!) talked about what they do and welcomed the "kittens"– members attending the conference for the first time.

On Friday morning, we faced all the choices described in the booklet we picked up at registration. That's one of the problems encountered on this first day. With three sessions running simultaneously, which do we choose and which do we have to miss?

The sessions ranged from the nuts and bolts of writing (Beth Adelman on "Grammar Myths and Truths") to Jane Brunt on how to interview a vet; the Editors and Agents Panel with Andrew DePrisco; Diane West, Susan Logan, and Rita Rosenkranz on the latest in publishing; Anne A. Simpkinson giving us a glance at the thriving inspirational marketplace; Dan Poynter on the choices out there, from traditional publishing to self-publishing, from hard-cover books to ebooks; Susan Logan of *Cat Fancy* on how to query an editor; and Andrew DePrisco's hints on what makes a cat book sell, including some comments about the



Barbara Stretton is the creator of the *Tori Trotter* Mystery series (www.ToriTrotter.com). Tori is a cat detective who can best be described as "Sam Spade in a cat suit." Barbara also teaches writing in Connecticut and online with the Institute of Children's Literature. She served as the CWA conference photographer this year. Thank you, Barbara!

best-selling *Dewey the Library Cat* books (Wouldn't we all love to know the secret of those?!).

For those of us who already have books and are ready to market them, we got plenty of good advice, including how to write for the web with Susan Waller Miccio; Robin Olson and Sam Moore on how to know if your Tweets, Facebook page, and blogs are reaching anybody; Bill Pflieger on how to use online video to promote your book; Niki Anderson on how to launch your book with a bang; and even "The Zen of the Press Release" with Anne Leighton.

Saturday was another full day, with Amy Shojai talking about the Kindle option, Diane West encouraging us to look to local markets for our writing, and Mary Shafer on why we need an online newsroom. And this is only a sampling of all the many workshops. The days were so full, I'm sure many of us were glad to take a break for the book signing and cat show down at the Westchester County Center.

Anyone who has a desire to write and be published, whether about cats, dogs, or any other subject, can benefit from attending this wonderful conference. I came away exhausted, my head bursting with knowledge that I'm only now beginning to sift through. But I wouldn't have missed it for the world. One thing I was glad for – though I live only about 25 minutes away in Connecticut, I opted to stay at the Crowne Plaza for the weekend. That way I could grab a nap or a hot bath anytime and unwind from all the wonderful presentations.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ **Plan Now for** ★
★ **CWA's 2011** ★
★ **Conference!** ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

INSIDE

Call for Volunteers.....	2
President's Message.....	3
Special Award Winners.....	4
Muse Medallion™ Winners.....	9
Conference Photos.....	9, 14-15
Special Thanks.....	17, 18-19, 23
Financial Report.....	20
Annual Meeting Minutes.....	21
Conference Questionnaire.....	22
Bits & Bytes/Welcome Mat.....	24-25
The Cat's MEOW.....	26
The 2011 CWA Contest.....	27

VOLUNTEER TODAY!

By Susan M. Ewing, CWA President

HELP! CWA always needs volunteers who are willing to serve the interests of our group. Please put your skills to use in a job or on a committee.

Other volunteer vacancies may be coming up this year, but I know of two very important positions that need someone to fill them right away.

Julie Ann Mock will no longer be doing our wonderful Certificates of Excellence. Julie has been doing these certificates since at least 1994! Huge thanks to Julie for all the work she has put into these Certificates for all these years. We'd send her a certificate of appreciation but, unfortunately, there's no one to do it.

If you have some artistic ability and would like to volunteer to do certificates for CWA, please contact me at dogwriter@windstream.net.

And, we have lost Lea-Ann Germinder as our public relations coordinator. Lea-Ann helped us for many years and we offer many thanks.

If you're good at PR and have the time, please volunteer to fill this important position. Again, contact me at dogwriter@windstream.net. ♥

The 2010 Shojai Mentoring Award Winner's Open Letter to CWA:



I was astounded to receive the Shojai Mentoring Award this year. I never dreamed of even being nominated, and want to thank Fran [Shaw] for that. I treasure my membership in CWA. It's one of the best organizations I've ever belonged to, and that says a lot considering that among those are Canadian Authors Association, the Professional Writers' Association of Canada, the Canadian Association of Journalists, and the International Association of Business Communicators.

I think the diversity of CWA's membership is its great strength. We have the benefit of expertise from veterinarians, breeders, leaders of rescue organizations, behavioral experts, broadcasters, and bloggers, along with expert researchers and writers whose

books have become invaluable references. I've been happy to offer some of what I've gleaned over many years as a professional journalist, including information on publishing, publicity, and copyright, but I've also learned a great deal from others who share their knowledge and experience.

I believe strongly in mentoring, and hope more of our members will consider adding their names to the list of mentors on the website. And if you need help, don't hesitate to contact someone on that list (or any of the rest of us who post regularly to the Pro-list). I offer formal mentoring to clients, who often later become friends. It's very rewarding, and I often learn about subjects I would never have realized would interest me!

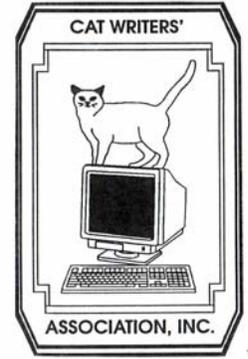
So thank you again, CWA, for this great honor. The plaque has found a special spot in my front hall, where it's visible from the living room and will be seen by everyone who comes to visit.

— *Barbara (Bobbi) Florio-Graham,*
www.SimonTeakettle.com



Bobbi and Terzo

Photo by Shannon Lee Mannion



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(www.catwriters.org)

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CWA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Start Making Plans Now — See You at the 2011 CWA Conference!

By Susan M. Ewing, CWA President

I am writing this while waiting for a plumber. We hit sub-zero temperatures overnight and the cold water pipe to the kitchen sink, instead of just quietly freezing, as it does frequently when we hit single digits, decided to break. We didn't realize it until we had thawed it because it's tucked away in a teeny, tiny space.

So, we've filled some pans and pitchers with water, turned off the main valve, and are now waiting for the plumber to come and make it all better. However did our ancestors manage lugging water from a well? Thank goodness it was the water pipe and not our furnace.

Anyway, I've been dredging up memories of the 2010 conference, which was terrific! Wonderful speakers, good food, helpful hotel staff, fabulous volunteers, great people attending... even the weather cooperated.

There were, as always, wonderful entries in the annual writing competition. If you were there, you heard this at the dinner, but I'd like to repeat it here anyway.

Some presidential duties are harder than others, but choosing the recipient of the President's Award has got to be the hardest, and, at the same time, the most rewarding. I was privileged to be able to read all the wonderful Muse winners and that truly was a delight. So much talent, and so many wonderful articles, photos, books, blogs, and web sites. Finally, though, I made my selection. It wasn't just this newsletter's fine writing and fabulous photos that did it, though. I have to admit, I was ambushed by the cats, including Stan, Scooter, and Jenny Craig. The President's Award went to the Homeless Cats Network's newsletter, *CatTales*, edited by Cimeron Morrissey.



Susan M. Ewing

Truly, we have so much talent in this organization. I think CWA belongs in the *Guinness Book of World Records*.

If you missed the conference, the good news is that there'll be another one this year – the 18th annual CWA conference. It will be in White Plains, New York, once more. It will start Thursday, November 17, with our TNT (Thursday Night Team) bag stuffing and get-acquainted meeting, and continue with seminars and dinners Friday and Saturday. There'll be a shuttle to the Westchester Cat Show as well.

In 2012, well, who knows? We've got a committee researching locations and dates, and I can't wait to see what they will come up with. What do I know for sure about both 2011 and 2012? That with the help of loyal sponsors, hard-working volunteers and amazing writers, the conferences will be terrific – and I also know I won't want to miss them! ♥



THE CWA CONFERENCE BOOKSTORE DISPLAY — A POPULAR CAT SHOW ATTRACTION

2010 CWA SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS

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 Fran Pennock Shaw for her article "Treating Cancerous Oral Tumors."** *Judge: Heather Roberts, Dean of Sciences and Math at Sierra College; post-doctoral researcher at UC-Davis Center for Companion Animal Health on inherited feline diseases and the origins of the domestic cat; breeder of Bengals, Bombays, and Singapuras, and now a Burmese breeder; TICA Approved All-Breed judge and a member of TICA's Genetics Committee: "An excellent article summarizing current research on the treatment of oral tumors in felines. The author emphasizes the importance of detecting the tumor early.... A vast majority of the article gives the reader a variety of treatment plans that may be investigated should they find that their cat has such a tumor."* ~ 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 Steve Dale for "Microchipping: A Tale of Hope."** *Judge: Mim Carlson, Interim Executive Director of the East Bay Humane Society, book author, Development and Planning Director of the San Francisco SPCA, Board member of the State Humane Association of California, consultant to animal rescue groups: "This was a difficult set of entries because there were a few that were really top-notch.... The winning entry is about never giving up on a beloved cat, and it was also very educational. The love between the human and cat, both incredible survivors, is inspirational."* ~ \$500 and a commemorative award ~

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 Amy Shojai.** *Judge: Susannah Charleson works with her partner, a Golden Retriever named Puzzle, for the Metro Area Rescue K9 unit in Dallas, an elite volunteer canine Search and Rescue team; she's also a flight instructor and broadcaster, and author of Scent of the Missing: Love and Partnership with a Search-and-Rescue Dog. She has six other dogs, four cats, and a fish named Sound Bite: "Good balance and variety of topics. These are an interesting, approachable subjects with the information told in a clear, engaging style."* ~ \$500 and a cat figurine ~



PHOTO© AMY SHOJAI

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 Cimeron Morrissey for her article "Senior Cats for Senior Citizens."** *Judge: Margie Scherk, DVM, founder of the Cats Only Veterinary Clinic in Vancouver, BC; a pioneer in use of the Fentanyl Patch for the alleviation of pain in companion animals; past board member and President of the American Association of Feline Practitioners and member of the AAFP Feline Vaccine Recommendations Panel; founder and co-editor of the Feline Internal Medicine folder on Veterinary Information Network (VIN) and is the North American editor for the Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery: "This is an excellent piece, easy to read, succinct, good research and very accurate."* ~ \$1000 and a commemorative plaque ~

THE HARTZ® GLAMOUR-PUSS AWARD, sponsored by Hartz Mountain Corporation, honors the best single entry on the topic of feline skin and coat care. ~ **Awarded to Dusty Rainbolt for "Dude, Tic Tac!"** *Judge: Danelle German, author of the Ultimate Cat Groomer Encyclopedia, TV guest, Groomers Got Talent competition at Groom Expo, judge of cat grooming competitions, founder of the National Cat Groomers Institute of America and the world's first feline-exclusive grooming school located in Greenville, S.C.: "I selected this entry because it is well written and extremely informative. I found the information contained in the article to be accurate, useful and presented in a humorous, easy-to-read manner."* ~ \$1000 and a commemorative plaque ~

2010 CWA SPECIAL AWARDS *(continued)*

THE HARTZ® MILK REPLACEMENT FOR KITTENS AWARD, sponsored by Hartz Mountain Corporation, is awarded to the best single article or single radio or television broadcast on the topic of rescuing kittens ~ **Awarded to Dusty Rainbolt for “Hope Rises.”** *Judge: Dr. Vicki Thayer has a background in feline medicine, surgery, and dentistry; she is past president and board member of the American Association of Feline Practitioners, an American Veterinary Medicine Association delegate, and President-Elect of the Winn Feline Foundation: “This entry is a very well written article with a great, timely message that needs to be heard.” ~ \$1000 and a commemorative plaque ~*

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 Janiss Garza for “Shelter Me: Be Prepared Before Choosing a Kitten.”** *Judge: Peggy Wiegler, the Executive Director of Animal Humane New Mexico, has achieved a major decrease in euthanasias, the opening of New Mexico’s first low-cost veterinary clinic for low-income pet owners, and the introduction of ASPCA’s Safer™ and Meet Your Match™ programs, a behavior rehab program, and a TNR program; and she served on New Mexico’s Animal Sheltering Board: “The comprehensive guidelines and accurate information provided to potential adopters of shelter kittens captured my interest.... Her advice is spot on regarding what to look for in a shelter and in picking a healthy kitten. Her checklist of ‘Kitten Necessities’ is practical and complete.... Her article was engaging, easy to read, balanced and fair.” ~ \$500 and a plaque ~*

THE MERIAL HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND AWARD, sponsored by Merial, is presented to the entry that best reflects and promotes the strengthening of the human-animal bond, highlighting the bond between a cat and its owner, as well as their relationship with their veterinarian as another direct caregiver. ~ **Awarded to Ingrid King for her book *Buckley’s Story: Lessons from a Feline Master Teacher*.** *Judge: Betty Carmack has had a long-standing interest in the human-animal bond. She authored *Grieving the Death of a Pet* and has led a long-running Pet Loss Support Group at the San Francisco SPCA. She is a professor at the University of San Francisco and has been a speaker at previous CWA conferences: “The entry I selected had the award’s criteria integrated throughout. There was a heavy emphasis throughout on material that reflects and promotes the strengthening of the human-animal bond as well as highlighting the bond between cat and owner. There was example after example – each touching and each significant to the overall story. Additionally this writer clearly articulated her relationship with the veterinarian throughout the writing. There were continuous examples of the important role of the veterinarian and the impact the veterinarian had on the relationship of the writer and her cat as well as the outcome of care.” ~ \$1000 and a commemorative certificate ~*

THE PETFINDER.COM ADOPT A HOMELESS CAT AWARD, sponsored by Petfinder.com, is presented for an article (print or online), features, or columns on cat adoption, and the winner will be used on the petfinder.com website. ~ **Awarded to Steve Dale for “CAtegorical Care: An Owner’s Guide to America’s #1 Companion.”** *Judge: Vickie Fisher, President of The International Cat Association (TICA), Maine Coon Cat breeder for over 20 years and Approved All-Breed Judge and Ring Instructor. A former state government executive, she is President and Founder of Albuquerque Kennel Kompadres, a nonprofit “friends” of the City Animal Shelter group, and she serves as an instructor for the Animal Shelter’s School Outreach Program, visiting children with her cat, Arnie. “This is a ‘wow’ piece. Lots of great research... authoritative, well balanced... covered all aspects of successful adoptions and cat care. Wonderful, easy to read writing style and just the right amount of information in each section. I’ve already suggested to the City Animal Shelter that this booklet be available for adopters and the public. This is a great effort to elevate the status of the cat and thereby improve the fate of homeless cats. I enjoyed reading every word.” ~ \$1000 and a commemorative certificate ~*



DUSTY RAINBOLT with HARTZ® Awards



INGRID KING © Layla Morgan Wilde

(continued on the next page)

2010 CWA SPECIAL AWARDS *(continued)*

THE PURINA® PEDIGREED CATS AWARD is presented to the writer or creator of the best entry of the year that focuses on cat breeds, pedigreed cats, and professional breeder issues. ~ **Awarded to Brigitte McMinn for *The Cat Breeder's Handbook*.** Judge: Janet Wolf has bred pedigreed cats for more than 20 years. She co-chaired the first international veterinary conference on FeCV and FIP held at UC-Davis; she is active in various cat clubs, cat shows, and local rescues; she served as Secretary of the Winn Feline Foundation and in 2002 became the foundation's first executive director: "My pick is an outstanding reference book for both breeders and cat owners. There was tons of practical 'how to' information and information not found in other books on breeding that I've used. Many of the veterinary science articles are referenced. The writing style made it easy to understand. The 'Tips and Time Savers' had some great ideas. The illustrations and photos were outstanding. I will recommend the guide to new breeders." ~ \$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 Debbie Swanson for "Feeding Time: What's the Best Way To Ensure That Your Kitten Eats Right?"** Judge: Dr. Melissa Kennedy graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine, and, after working as a small animal veterinarian, returned to the University of Tennessee to get a Ph.D. in Comparative and Experimental Medicine. She is now an assistant professor in the Department of Comparative Medicine at the University of Tennessee: "This article flows well; it is organized and engaging with useful information. The panels and section titles were helpful. It also had appealing photographs." ~ \$500 and a commemorative pewter bowl ~

THE PURINA® ONE® HEALTH AWARD is for the outstanding single article reporting on feline health issues. ~ **Awarded to Fran Pennock Shaw for her article "Deadly Feline Disease (FIP)."** Judge: Christine Bellezza, DVM, is the Co-Director of the Cornell Feline Health Center. She has been a consultant at the FHC since 1999, and became the Co-Director, along with Dr. Paul Maza, in 2009 upon Dr. Fred Scott's retirement. She is also the co-author of the Ask Elizabeth column in CatWatch: "This article is clearly the pick of the litter. Her subject, FIP, is complicated and confuses even many veterinarians, yet this author accurately and concisely presented all the important aspects of the disease in a way that was easy to understand and is a pleasure to read. That alone was reason enough for the win, but the article also listed support groups for owners of cats afflicted with this fatal disease, discussed research into desperately needed therapies and diagnostic tests, and let readers know ways they can help researchers battle this devastating disease. Accomplishing all of this in so few words is a truly remarkable feat." ~ \$500 and a commemorative pewter bowl ~



THE PURINA® KITTEN CHOW® KITTEN AWARD is presented to the author of the outstanding entry on caring for kittens. ~ **Awarded to Marilyn Krieger for "A Gentle Approach."** Judge: Dr. Tom Hribernik received his DVM degree from Missouri University and completed a residency at Purdue University. On the staff at Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine he taught and evaluated patients. He is now on the staff of VCA Veterinary Care Animal Hospital and Referral Center in Albuquerque: "I must say picking the top article was somewhat difficult because I felt several stood out. All of the articles, at some level or another, were informative and entertaining. I found the winning article to be informative and it had a nice flow to the text. The pictures served to reinforce key points being made in the text. I wish I would have had this when rearing my first kitten!" ~ \$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 Karen Pryor for "Clicking with Shelter Cats."** Judge: Mikel Delgado is a partner in Feline Minds, a cat behavior consulting business. She currently serves on the Board of the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants and is a Certified Cat Behavior Consultant. She worked as a cat behavior specialist at the San Francisco SPCA. Currently she is a Ph.D. student at UC Berkeley in the Psychology Department with an emphasis on animal cognition and behavior: "Excellent narrative that tells a story and educates at the same time. This article has the potential to change the lives of many cats in animal shelters through training. This was my choice for the Sticky Paws® award because it is entertaining, educational, clear to understand, and of great relevance." ~ \$1000 and a commemorative certificate ~

2010 CWA SPECIAL AWARDS *(continued)*

THE TIDY CATS® FELINE BEHAVIOR AWARD, sponsored by Purina®, is presented for the best entry on the subject of feline behavior. ~ **Awarded to Amy Shojai for “Cat Talk.”** *Judge: Dilara Goksel Parry was the Cat Behavior Program Coordinator at the San Francisco SPCA for 12 years. She has been a cat behavior expert on the Best Friends/No More Homeless Pets Forums; she wrote about shelter cats for Maddie’s Fund; and in 2008 she and Mikel Delgado founded Feline Minds, a cat behavior consulting business. She presented at the Feral Cat Summit and evaluated cat candidates for the Meow Mix® Think Like a Cat game show. She is dedicated to helping people understand felines and improving conditions for shelter cats: “Ultimately I selected the winner because of its depth of subject matter, creative and yet accessible writing style, and technical accuracy. The author did a good job of giving practical tips as well as explaining the why’s of cat communication and mechanism of the senses, which will enhance owner understanding of normal and problem behavior.”* ~ \$500 and a commemorative pewter bowl ~

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 Thad Krasnesky for *That Cat Can’t Stay*.** *Judge: Beth Withers, who received her Masters of Librarianship from Emory University, served as a children’s librarian with the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library for 30 years and was a judge on the 1976 Newbery and Caldecott Committee; she also has judged the best picture book author for the Golden Kite Award, given annually by the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators: “This is the perfect blending of text and illustrations, which is very important in a picture book. The story, which is about a Dad who really does not like cats, is told with humor, verve, and an obvious love of cats on the part of the author. The verse – unintentionally or not – pays homage to Dr. Seuss. The book begs to [be] read aloud and should be enjoyed by children and adults.”* ~ \$500 and a commemorative plaque ~

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 Barbara Florio Graham.** *Nomination by Fran Pennock Shaw: “Bobbi is an obvious choice for the Shojai Mentor Award because mentoring has been her ‘M.O.’ throughout her long-time membership in CWA. (She is a charter member since 1993.) Everyone on the CWA professional Pro-list knows that Bobbi can be counted upon for advice! Ask for information on any topic related to writing or publishing and Bobbi is the first to answer.... On a personal level, Bobbi was one of those who helped me this past year with questions I had about publicizing my first gift book in addition to what the publisher was doing. Her useful suggestions included ways to increase sales... and reliable places I could go for more information, like her own and fellow CWA member Dan Poynter’s websites. Additionally, several ago when I was president of CWA, Bobbi volunteered to be chairperson and designer of CWA’s formal Mentoring Program.... Her willingness to help guide others is never in question.”* ~ \$500 and a commemorative plaque ~

KUYKENDALL IMAGE AWARD, sponsored by CWA, is presented to the outstanding “image” entry featuring cats – whether photography, illustration or graphic art. ~ **Awarded to Dwight Kirkland and Lorrie Bell Hawkins for *Jolicure Cats*.** *Judge: Barbara Gottlieb went to Parsons School of Design, founded the Stock Shop to sell images, dealt with medical illustrations in Medichrome and AnatomyWorks, and recently created The Medical File to service the needs of medical and medical-related industries. “It was a very warm and interesting story about one person’s experiences with many different cat personalities. How different yet how similar they were and how much she loved them all even when they were ‘bad kitties’... or should I say ‘curious kitties’! The illustrations are beautiful and give a real sense of what her cats looked like. I think it is a lovely story with lovely illustrations for both adults and kids alike.”* ~ \$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 the Homeless Cats Network’s newsletter, “CatTales,” edited by Cimeron Morrissey.** *Judge: CWA President Susan Ewing: “I was privileged to be able to read all the wonderful Muse winners and that truly was a delight. So much talent, and so many wonderful articles, photos, books, blogs, and web sites. Finally, though, I made my selection. It wasn’t just this newsletter’s fine writing and fabulous photos that did it, though. I have to admit, I was ambushed by the cats, including Stan, Scooter, and Jenny Craig.”* ~ \$250 and a commemorative item ~

Sincerest Congratulations to all the 2010 Winners!

Although Winning Isn't Everything, It Is a Lot of Fun!



PHOTO/©CELESTE YARNALL, Ph.D.
Muse Medallion™ Winner



FLORENCE SCARINICI
Muse Medallion™ Winner
PHOTO/© Cindy Read



MARY SHAFER and ROBIN OLSON, Muse Medallion™ Winners
PHOTO/© Layla Morgan Wilde



SUSAN LOGAN and SANDY ROBINS
Muse Medallion™ Winners
PHOTO/© Sandy Robins



CWA Past President
AMY D. SHOJAI and
current President
SUSAN M. EWING
know how much fun
it is to participate in
CWA's contest and
conference! Join
them in November
2011 for another
joyful, purr-ific
CWA conference.

PHOTO/© Amy Shojai



AWARDS CHAIR NANCY MARANO
addressing the CWA Awards Dinner

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS
FROM THE 2010
CWA CONFERENCE
WERE MADE BY
CONFERENCE
PHOTOGRAPHER
BARBARA STRETTON
UNLESS OTHERWISE
NOTED WITH PHOTOS.
THANK YOU,
BARBARA!

PEG SILLOWAY with her Muse Medallion
gift book, *The Cat Lover's Book of Days*
PHOTO/© Phil Marcus



2010 CWA Communication Contest Muse Medallion™ & Certificate of Excellence Winners



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

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

*CAT FANCY/Susan Logan, Editor

I.2 – Magazine Article – Health and General Care

*Dusty Rainbolt/A Long and Healthy Life (CAT FANCY)

“A very informative read about the oft forgotten elder feline. The inclusion of complimentary alternative treatment was a plus. There was a good selection of expert sources. The article offered updated information on senior cats and covered the bases as far as issues facing aging cats. Well done.”

Brenda Griffin/The Best Medicine (ANIMAL SHELTERING)

Helen Jablonski/Does Your Cat Have Cavities? (CAT FANCY)

Sandy Robins/Digesting the Facts on Kitten Nutrition (PET PRODUCT NEWS INTERNATIONAL)

Fran Pennock Shaw/Fight the Bite (CAT FANCY)

Rebecca Sweat/Eating Habits (CAT FANCY)

Kim Thornton/The Trip to the Vet (KITTENS USA)

I.3 – Magazine Article – Behavior and Training

*Brenda Griffin/Scaredy Cat or Feral Cat? (ANIMAL SHELTERING)

“This is such an important topic for the shelter world, for cat rescuers everywhere, and for all of us with a ‘scaredy cat’ at home who might, heaven forbid, end up lost and need to be differentiated from a feral cat. The author, a shelter veterinarian, writes with authority and covers the topic from all angles. I love it that she provides physical descriptors of ferals as well as behavioral ones, and that all cat rescuers are encouraged to give rescued cats the time they need to relax and show their true colors. In fact, the only fault I find with this article is that ‘true colors’ wasn’t part of the title.”

Jim Baker/Helping Cats Find Their Happy Place (ANIMAL SHELTERING)

Arna Cohen/Let’s See Some ID (ALL ANIMALS)

Marilyn Krieger/Click It! (CATS USA)

Karen Pryor/Clicking with Shelter Cats (ANIMAL SHELTERING)

Debbie Swanson/Cat Communications (CATS USA)

I.4 – Magazine Article – Any Other Topic

*Janiss Garza/Breed Rescue 2.0 (CATS USA)

“Cat rescue and breed rescue have been around a long time but this article makes it very current.”

Laura Lee Bloor/Is a No-Kill Nation Possible? (CAT FANCY)

Marva Bovsun/And the Purr Flies: Welcome to the World of Kitty Agility (AKC GAZETTE)

Helen Jablonski/Avoid Holiday Hazards (CAT FANCY)

Cimeron Morrissey/Shelter from the Storm (CAT FANCY)

Dusty Rainbolt/Lost Cat Found (CAT FANCY)

Dusty Rainbolt/Hope Rises (CAT FANCY)

I.5 – Magazine – Column

*Cimeron Morrissey/Foster Focus (CAT FANCY)

“Very engaging openings that draw the reader into heartwarming stories. Strong portrayal of both the cats and the people who help them. She makes me want to cry with every thoughtful, caring, educational column.”

Dusty Rainbolt & Dr. Jill Richardson/Dear Hobbes (CITY + COUNTRY PETS)

I.6 – Magazine – Regional – no winner

I.7 – Magazine – Regional – Article – Health and General Care – no winner

I.8 – Magazine – Regional – Article – Behavior and Training – no winner

I.9 – Magazine – Regional – Article – Any Other Topic

*Debbie Waller/Barn Cats (CITY + COUNTRY CATS)

“This piece is inspirational and memorable – a creative account of a creative solution.”

Dusty Rainbolt/The Lucky Black Cat (CITY + COUNTRY PETS)

I.10 – Magazine – Regional – Column – no winner

To EVERY
CWA Honoree:
PURRS!!



(continued on the next page)

2010 Muse Medallion™ Awards *(continued)*

II.1 - Newspaper Article – Health and General Care

***Fran Pennock Shaw/Deadly Feline Disease (FIP) (LANCASTER SUNDAY NEWS)**

“This is a classic example of a well-researched, expertly crafted, informative and engaging article. It deals with a complex and heartbreaking problem while combining the personal and clinical extremely well.”

Steve Dale/Should We Worry About Our Pets Catching H1N1? (TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES)

Fran Pennock Shaw/Obese Pets (LANCASTER SUNDAY NEWS)

II.2 – Newspaper Article – Behavior and Training – no winner

II.3 – Newspaper Article – Any Other Topic

***Steve Dale/Join Cat Adoption Campaign (TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES)**

“This article works. It is statistical and shocking. The piece is well-researched [and] written and has polished editing.”

Steve Dale/Microchipping: A Tale of Hope (TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES)

Steve Dale/Celebrating Feral Cats (TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES)

Andrea Dorn/Meow Meow for a Medal (THE DES MOINES REGISTER)

Nancy White/Your Pets (NEWS & MESSENGER)

II.4 – Newspaper Column

***Elaine Wexler-Mitchell/The Cat Doc (THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER)**

“This writer addresses important concerns for cat owners in a direct, informative manner and provides excellent advice that is easy to understand.”

Steve Dale/My Pet World (TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES)

III.1 – Newsletter – Breed Specific

***BENGALS ILLUSTRATED/ Brigitte McMinn, Editor**

“This is a well-written and informative newsletter that is also gorgeous to look at. It contains articles that are of interest not only to breeders but to cat lovers in general.”

III.2 – Newsletter – National Circulation

***CATNIP/Arden Moore, Editor**

“This contains an excellent balance of information about health issues, general welfare, and new products. Seriously? You want me to find fault with what I consider an exemplary magazine for cat lovers?”

CATS WALK/Dr. Jean Hofve, Editor (LITTLE BIG CAT, INC.)

III.3 – Newsletter – Regional or Membership Circulation

***CAT TALES/Cimeron Morrissey, Editor**

“Very sweet stories do what they set out to do – serve the reader. Well done.”

ALLEY CAT MEWS/Louise Holton & Kelly Riser, Editors (ALLEY CAT RESCUE)

THE WISE ALTERNATIVE/Christy Hoffman, Editor (COALITION HUMANE)

III.4 – Newsletter Article – Health and General Care

***Kim Thornton/Understanding the Euthanasia Process (CATNIP)**

“Deciding if and when to ‘put to sleep’ a beloved cat, is the great common denominator among all persons who take on cat ownership. This sensitive, comprehensive article looks at the subject from all angles and offers gentle advice about how to know when the time is right, what to expect at the time of death, and how to memorialize the life that has ended.”

Arden Moore/Cat First-Aid Advice (CATNIP)

Jeanne O’Donnell/Beyond PKD (CAT TRACKS MAGAZINE)

Fran Pennock Shaw/FIP Research Sheds Light on Immuno-Mediated Diseases (PURINA PRO CLUB UPDATE)

Amy Shojai/Nutrigenomics and Your Cat’s Health (CATNIP)

Roxanne Snopek/Update on Feline Diabetes (CATNIP)

Elissa Wolfson/Cutting Carbohydrates for Obese Cats (CATNIP)

III.5 – Newsletter Article – Behavior and Training – no winner

III.6 – Newsletter Article – Any Other Topic

***Amy Shojai/Debunking 10 Feline Urban Legends (CATNIP)**

“Excellent job. Cats are often dumped at shelters because of myths. This is a must-read for all new cat owners or for cat owners who think they know it all and don’t.”

Dusty Rainbolt/Products that Cater To Isolated Cats (CATNIP)

III.7 – Newsletter Column

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

“I like the personal narratives in this column. The stories are touching and I could identify with them. What greater compliment can I give to a writer than to say that she touches my emotions?”

IV.1 – Short Story

***Carole Nelson Douglas/Butterfly Kiss (RUNNING PRESS)**

“Grabbed and kept my attention from the beginning to end; mysterious, spellbinding, love the clever cast of characters including humans, felines and vampires.”

Dale Roxanne McGraw/Purely Ragus (BENGALS ILLUSTRATED)

To EVERY
CWA Honoree:
HEADBUTTS!!



2010 Muse Medallion™ Awards *(continued)*

IV.2 – Poem

*Bernadette Kazmarski/Pawprints and Raindrops (CATNIP CHRONICLES)

“An ordinary happening vividly described in an extraordinary way. Fluid, good imagery, evokes feelings, and sounds musical.”

IV.3 - Humor

*Rosie Sorenson/Greeting cards from the cats of Buster Hollow (BUSTER HOLLOW PRODUCTIONS)

“Great photos and funny captions.”

IV.4 – Brochure, Pamphlet, Short Publication – no winner

IV.5 – Annual or Long Publication – no winner

IV.6 – Opinion Piece, Essay or Editorial

*Dusty Rainbolt/Dear Hobbes: Adopt Me! (CITY + COUNTRY PETS)

“The winning entry was persuasive without being overbearing. It was colorful, lively, clever and lightly humorous.”

Joanne Anderson/Brookhaven Feral Feeding Bar (AMITYVILLE RECORD)

Joanne Anderson/North Hempstead Shelter: No Cats Allowed (AMITYVILLE RECORD)

IV.7 – PR / Humane Education / Press Kits – TIE

*Steve Dale/CATegorical Care: A Companion Guide to America’s #1 Companion (CATALYST COUNCIL/AMERICAN HUMANE)

“This is a great handout textbook for Felines 101. Every topic is detailed and specific. I learned a lot. Where can I get a huge carton to hand out at our town shelter?”

*Mary Shafer/Almost Perfect Press Kit (ENSPIRO HOUSE)

“The packet certainly achieved its purpose. It made me want to read the book.”

Steve Dale/Connecting with Cats (CATALYST COUNCIL/AMERICAN HUMANE)

V.1 – Books – Fiction – TIE

*Carole Nelson Douglas/CAT IN A TOPAZ TANGO (Forge Books)

“This book is one of the best in the series. All in all a good read.”

*Shirley Rousseau Murphy/CAT STRIKING BACK (Harper Collins, Morrow/Avon)

“Skillfully melds a world of talking cats into the world of human intrigue. Keeps the pages turning.”

V.2 – Books for Children

*Thad Krasnesky/THAT CAT CAN’T STAY (Flashlight Press)

“Pure delight! The rhyme and rhythm excites the mouth when read aloud, the brightly colored illustrations are visually appealing, and the father’s facial expressions and physical antics are hysterical. This book is purrfect.”

Jane Yolen/HOW DO DINOSAURS LOVE THEIR CATS? (Scholastic)

V.3 – Books – Health and General Care

*Celeste Yarnall and Dr. Jean Hofve/THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO HOLISTIC CAT CARE (Quarry Books)

“Well researched and well presented information, beautifully laid out and illustrated with stunning photographs. This is a valuable resource for every cat owner interested in holistic health and a beautiful addition to anyone’s cat care library.”

Sarah Caney/CARING FOR A CAT WITH HYPERTHYROIDISM (Cat Professional)

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

V.5 – Gift Book

*Peg Silloway/THE CAT LOVER’S BOOK OF DAYS (Ursa Books)

“Most engaging! Well-researched, nice morsels of kitty-info, quotations, bits and tidbits to urge the reader ever onward. It’s a nice bedside book you can open to any page and be immediately engaged.”

Niki Anderson/WHISKERS, WIT AND WISDOM (Howard Books)

Amy White/CAT ANGELS: THE SECRET LIVES OF CATS (Cat Angel’s Press)

V.6 – Poetry – no winner

V.7 – Books – Other

*Lorie Bell Hawkins/JOLICURE CATS (Percheron Press)

“Gorgeous style and beautiful book. Excellent all around. A joy to read. Does not overplay the real love the author has for her cats.”

Fr. Paul A. Keenan/WHY WE LOVE THEM SO (iUniverse)

Ingrid King/BUCKLEY’S STORY: LESSONS FROM A FELINE MASTER TEACHER (iUniverse)

VI.1 – Video, DVD, or TV Production

*Sandy Robins/Flying the Feline Friendly Skies, Packing for a Road Trip with Your Cat, and Matilda’s Birthday Bash (Catchannel.com)

“Very professional quality, extremely well written with a great flow of information.”

Karen Adele Litzinger/Heal Your Heart – Coping with the Loss of a Pet (Heal From Pet Loss Press)

Rosie Sorenson/Bay Area People Interview (KTVU-2)

To EVERY
CWA Honoree:
Paws Up!!



(continued on the next page)

2010 Muse Medallion™ Awards *(continued)*

VI.2 – Broadcast, Audio – Any Format

***Steve Dale/Steve Dale's PetWorld WLS Podcast: FIP Part 1 (WLS-AM Radio)**

"The interview with Dr. Niels Pedersen about FIP was clear and thorough. This podcast is an example of how a podcast should be done."

Steve Dale/Steve Dale's Pet World WLS Petcast: Becky Robinson (WLS-AM Radio)

Steve Dale/Steve Dale's Pet World WLS Petcast: All About Cats (WLS-AM Radio)

Amy Shojai/Pet Peeves: Entertain the Feline Brain – Feline Enrichment (PetLifeRadio)

Amy Shojai/Pet Peeves: "Cat-egorical Care for Adopt-A-Cat-Month (PetLifeRadio)

Amy Shojai/Pet Peeves: The Peeing Cat – Thinking Outside the Box (PetLifeRadio)

Deborah Wolfe/Animal Party: The Wild World of Feral Cats – Guest: Marci Kladnik (PetLifeRadio)

Deborah Wolfe/Animal Party: Why Do Cats Bury Their Poop? – Guest: Caroline Coile, PhD (PetLifeRadio)

Deborah Wolfe/Animal Party: Click Your Cat to Better Behavior – Guest: Marilyn Krieger (PetLifeRadio)

Elissa Wolfson/Animal Instincts: On Senior Cats (Finger Lake Productions)

Elissa Wolfson/Animal Instincts: On Kittens (Finger Lake Productions)

VII.1 - Online Magazine, Newsletter – no winner

VII.2 – Website

***Mary Anne Miller/www.felinexpress.com**

"Easy to maneuver. Pro look. One of my favorites and I would return to read more. It's obvious that tremendous effort and love went into creating this site. Good article selection. There is a wonderful selection of photos by category."

Karen Lawrence/www.catscenterstage.org
(<http://www.catscenterstage.org/>) (CFA)

Nancy Reeves/www.sockfip.org (<http://www.sockfip.org/>)

VII.3 – Online Article – Health and General Care

***Amy Shojai/Old Cat Behavior and Senility (www.Cats.About.com)**

"Supremely accessible article offering a wealth of information in a compassionate, practical and easily understood format. It sheds light on a lesser-known feline health problem."

VII.4 – Online Article – Behavior and Training

***Amy Shojai/Cat Talk (www.Cats.About.com)**

"For me this entry is the winner among a group of extremely deserving entries, simply because of its scope. The tone is authoritative. This is a very useful, well-presented series."

Dusty Rainbolt/Litter-ature 101 (Petsinfo.com)

Amy Shojai/Cat Clicker Training (Cats.About.com)

Amy Shojai/Solve Your Cat's Separation Anxiety (Cats.About.com)

VII.5 – Online Article – Any Other Topic – TIE

***Dusty Rainbolt/Ask Einstein (www.StickyPaws.com)**

"Now I don't cotton to a cat's talking – it's a contrivance – but here the information is so sensible and comprehensive (and easy to read) that it works – well!"

***Fran Scarinci/Pet Therapy – Not Just for Golden Retrievers Any More (www.bideawee.org)**

"This is one of the things I enjoy most about CWA, discovering a wonderful new voice. She is a definite find."

Judi Basolo/Humane Society? It's Not Always a Pawsative Place, Pts. 1 & 2 (The Cat's Meow)

Steve Dale/EPA Warnings about Flea and Tick Products (Stevendalepetworld.com)

Robin Olson/What Bob Dole Taught Me about Raw Food (Feline Nutrition Education Society)

Florence Scarinci/Life Goes On: Bideawee's Pet Loss Support Group (www.bideawee.org)

VII.6 – Online - Column

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

"This was a very strong category with lots of excellent work. The winner really does her homework and has a knack for citing the appropriate experts."

Marilyn Krieger/Cat Channel Column (catchannel.com)

Amy Shojai/Ask Amy (Cats.About.com)

Elaine Wexler-Mitchell/The Cat Doc (THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER)

VII.7 – Blog: Educational – TIE

***Dr. Jean Hofve/News From Dr. Jean (Only Natural Pet Store)**

"The blog speaks with authority and knowledge. My overall experience was quite positive, the site held my attention while reading and I felt like exploring further. A place I will revisit often."

***Robin Olson/www.coverincathair.com**

"This blog has the 'it' factor for me. I was captivated by the humor, pathos, and personal insights into cats and humans. The visual design is catchy. This entry expresses a very real, human quality and I will return to follow the stories."

VII.8 – Blog: Entertainment

***Janiss Garza/Sparkle the Designer Cat**

"While reading the entries, I laughed, smiled and nodded my head in agreement to the lessons being taught. Although written from the view of a cat, there is no annoying 'cat speak.' The blogger makes a subtle effort to educate the reader about what it takes to understand a cat. This is a blog worthy of bookmarking."

Robin Olson/Coveredincathair.com
(www.coveredincathair.com)

To EVERY
CWA Honoree:
PURR-iFIC!!



2010 Muse Medallion™ Awards *(continued)*

VIII.1 – Black and White Photograph (single) – TIE

***Stephanie Galindo/Sunny (Coalition Humane)**

“This is the epitome of cats: the insouciant air that goes with the full body and the dangling paw says it all.”

***Weems Hutto/Trust (CATNIP)**

“This photo got my attention immediately. The curve created between the cat’s and girl’s heads draws the eye into the photo. The fact that the girl’s face is in the shadow puts the focus on the cat, as it should be.”

Stephanie Galindo/Roscoe (Coalition Humane)

VIII.2 - Black and White Photograph (series)

***Stephanie Galindo/Happy Family (Coalition Humane)**

“Two of the images, Roscoe and Pink, are very striking and even hauntingly lovely. You can see the contentment in the companion animals. Great black and white series – well done!”

Stephanie Galindo/Free Roaming Friends and Ferals
(Coalition Humane)

VIII.3 – Color Photograph (single)

***Bob Walker/Kibble on the Table (THE CAT’S HOUSE)**

“The concept and composition is so unique and fresh that it grabs the attention and doesn’t let go. Very artistic and interesting work.”

Helmi Flick/Abyssinian (CAT FANCY)

Helmi Flick/American Shorthair (CAT FANCY)

Rosie Sorenson/Thank You (Buster Hollow Productions)

VIII.4 – Color Photograph (series)

***Sparkle the Designer Cat 2010 Wall Calendar (FitCat Enterprises, Inc./CafePress)**

“The photographer captures the subject’s personality by using light and props. Each photo tells a story, even without the captions added to each page.”

Brigitte McMinn/Bengals Illustrated Calendar for 2010
(TIBCC)

VIII.5 – Cartoon – no winner

VIII.6 – Illustration (single)

***Bernadette Kazmarski/Peaches and Peonies (Self-sold as animal sympathy card)** *“Perfection! Love the Rembrandt lighting and the kitty’s casual pose. Just a lovely illustration.”*

VIII.7 – Illustrations (series)

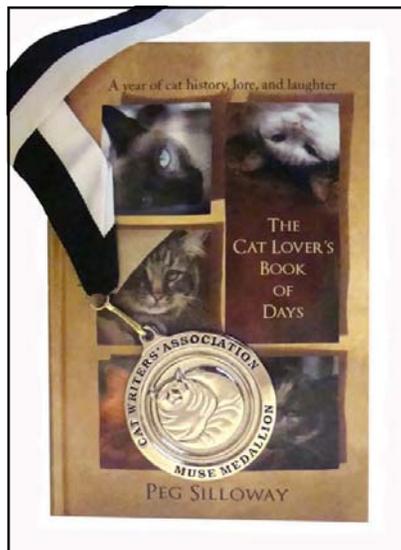
***Dwight Kirkland and Lorrie Bell Hawkins/Jolicure Cats** *“I would happily have any of these illustrations on the walls of my home.”*

Drew Strouble/2011 Purrfect Days Calendar (Pine Ridge Art, Inc.)

To EVERY
CWA Honoree:
GOOD JOB!!



Allia Zobel Nolan at the CWA book-signing event



**Enter the Contest
in 2011!**

The Cat Lover's Book of Days
BY PEG SILLOWAY
Muse Medallion™ Winner
PHOTO/© Peg Silloway



Quarterly Quotes

*"What greater gift than the love of a cat?"
~ Charles Dickens*

~ EXCITING CWA SEMINARS INFORM & INSPIRE ~



Sam Moore & Robin Olson: Is Anybody Out There? Using Analytics to Measure Your Reach



Cat Fancy Editor Susan Logan: How to Query an Editor



Susan Waller Miccio: Web Writing Untangled: Practical Pointers for Pet Writers



Niki Anderson: Launching Your Book with a Bang: How to Plan and Host a Successful Autograph Party



Steve Dale: Media Training: How to Succeed When You're on the Other Side of the Interview



Jane Brunt, DVM, & Steve Dale: CATegorical Care: Messages for Consumers Which Can Save Lives



Dan Poynter: Book Promotion for Writers, Introverts, and Other Reluctant Marketers; and Book Publishing Choices



Dena Harris: Is Facebook Really Your Friend?



Katharine Sands: The Reinvented Writer (marketplace tips)



Bill Pflieger: Webcasting Your Expertise



Andrew DePrisco: What Makes a Cat Book Sell?

MORE FABULOUS 2010 CONFERENCE SPEAKERS & TOPICS



Wayne Barr: Inquiring Minds Want to Know (Q&A session about book publishing)



Diane West: Using Local Markets as a Springboard to Success



Beth Adelman: Grammar Myths and Truths



Anne Leighton: The Zen of the Press Release (the who, what, when, where, and why of it)



Amy Shojai: Kindle-ization: The Ebook Option



Irene S. Levine, Ph.D.: Book Promotion 2.0 (new online tools for book publicity plans)



Deb M. Eldredge, DVM: Translating Vet-ese



Michele C. Hollow: Ghostwriting



Mary Shafer: Online Newsrooms: Why You Need One, How To Build It



Patricia Fry: Building Promotion into Your Book and the Post-publication Book Proposal



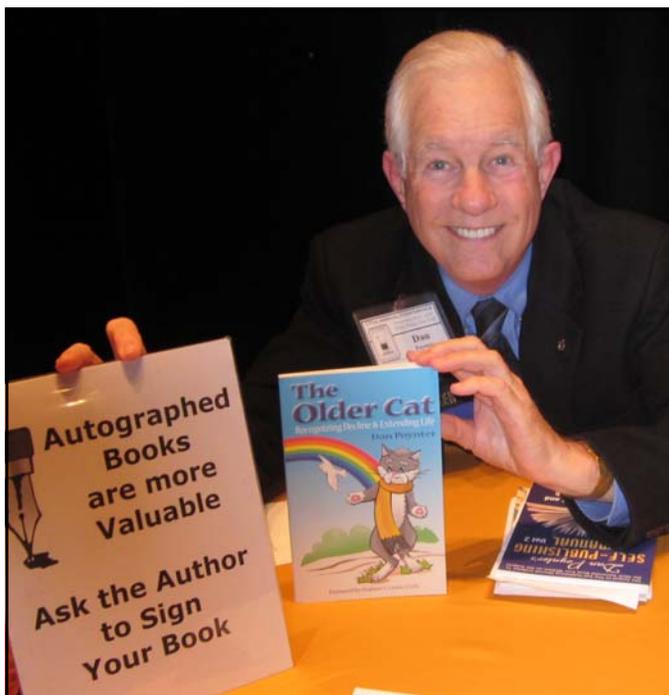
Ruth E. Thaler-Carter: Expanding Your Writing Territory

Thanks to All of the Dedicated Presenters Who Helped to Make Our Conference So Valuable and Enjoyable for All of Us!

CWA CONFERENCE GAZETTE



(ABOVE) JENNIFER CHARRON WARD at the book signing
(BELOW) DAN POYNTER adds value by signing his books



SATURDAY SPEAKER
Minda Zetlin, ASJA Vice President, told how to survive as a freelancer in an era of change in which the publishing rulebook we used to know has been tossed out the window.

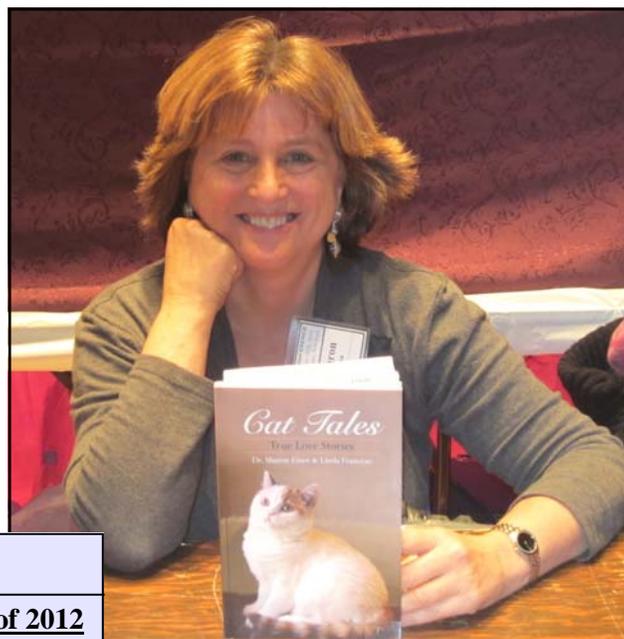


FRIDAY NIGHT SPEAKER
Katherine Miller, Ph.D., CAAB, CPDT, national project manager for the ASPCA, discussed current scientific inquiry into factors affecting the well-being and outcomes of shelter cats.

MORE PRIZEWINNERS!!

Dusty Rainbolt was the winner of the **Premier Pet Products Scholarship Award**. Runners-up were Maryjean Ballner and Rosie Sorenson. ~ \$500 to be applied toward the cost of attending the 2011 conference, where the prize will be presented. ~

The **Comfort Zone® with Feliway® Membership Bounty Prize** resulted in a tie between Deb Eldredge and Dusty Rainbolt, who split the prize between them. ~\$500 ~



DR. SHARON EISEN with her book *Cat Tales*

CWA ELECTION RESULTS

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Vice President – Dusty Rainbolt
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Conference Photos by Conference Photographer Barbara Stretton

Thankful Purrs to Our 2010 CWA Sponsors!



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



To All CWA Members:

Those of you who attended the 2010 CWA Conference know just how much work and \$\$\$ goes into making it so spectacular, year after year. The \$\$\$ comes from CWA's generous sponsors. Without our sponsors, the Conference as we know it would be impossible.

Whether or not you attended the Conference, PLEASE take a few moments to express your personal thank-you's to each of our sponsors for their generous and continued support of the CWA and the Conference. The sponsors' addresses are listed below. Your personal thanks really DO mean a lot to our sponsors. We've heard this time and time again.

Please write those thank-you notes today! It only takes a little time, but it makes a BIG difference!

—Purrrrrs... Wendy Christensen, CWA Secretary

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

ASPCA: Friday reception, Saturday luncheon
Jacque Schultz (jacques@aspca.org)
520 8th Avenue, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10018

CAT FANCIERS' ASSOCIATION: CWA President's Award and general sponsor
Rachel Anger, Corporate Secretary (RAnger@dykema.com)
1805 Atlantic Avenue, Manasquan, NJ 08736

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/COMFORT ZONE® WITH FELIWAY®: Membership Bounty Prize and co-sponsor Friday dinner
Carrie R. Foote, Public Relations Manager (CFoote@central.com)
301 W. Osborn Road, Phoenix, AZ 85013-3997

CORNELL FELINE HEALTH CENTER: Cornell Special Award
Christine A. Bellezza, D.V.M., Co-Director (cab37@cornell.edu)
Cornell Feline Health Center, 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

HARTZ MOUNTAIN CORPORATION: Membership breakfast, 3 Hartz® Special Awards, refreshments, and general conference sponsor
Bob Shipley, Marketing Department (bshiplew@hartz.com)
Kim Cassar, Director of Animal Health (KCassar@hartz.com)
Jennifer Dombkowski, Integrated Marketing Manager (JDombkowski@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)
10200 East Girard Avenue, Suite B430, Denver, CO 80231

PETCO FOUNDATION: General conference sponsor
Paul Jolly, Executive Director (PaulJ@PETCO.com)
7262 N. Rosemead Boulevard, San Gabriel, CA 91775

PETFINDER.COM:

Sara Lippincott, Manager of Shelter Outreach (sara@petfinder.com)
Susan Green, Specialist, Shelter Outreach (susan@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

PRECIOUS CAT, INC.: General sponsor
Gina Zaro, Marketing Director (gina@preciouscat.com)
4201 South Navajo, Unit 1, Englewood, CO 80110

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 (Fancy Feast®, Friskies®, Pro Plan®, Purina®, and Tidy Cats®)
Jadea Abolahrari, Marketing Public Relations (jadea.abolahrari@purina.nestle.com)
Nestlé Purina PetCare Company, 1034 Danforth Drive, St. Louis, MO 63102

SERGEANT'S PET CARE PRODUCTS: General conference sponsor
Patsy Sumner, Senior Director of Marketing, Communications, and Creative Services (psumner@sergeants.com)
Sergeant's Pet Care Products, Inc., 2625 South 158th Plaza, Omaha, NE 68130-1703

SHERPA PET GROUP™: General sponsorship
Nicola Plevin (nikki@sherpapetgroup.com)
Sherpa Pet Group, LLC, 300 Roundhill Drive, Suite 1, Rockaway, NJ 07866

AMY D. SHOJAI: Shojai Mentor Award
Amy D. Shojai, CWA Founder (shojai@verizon.net)
P.O. Box 1904, Sherman, TX 75091-1904

THE INTERNATIONAL CAT ASSOCIATION (TICA):
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 (l.masson@verizon.net)
American Dream Promotions, Inc., 1638 Hyatt Avenue, Peekskill, NY 10566

WORLD'S BEST CAT LITTER®: World's Best Cat Litter-ary Award
Jean Broders, Marketing Manager (brodersjean@grainprocessing.com)
GPC Pet Products, 1600 Oregon Street, Muscatine, IA 52761

♥ TAKE TIME TO SAY THANKS! ♥

DONORS OF DOOR & RAFFLE PRIZES

Calling All CWA members to action! Here are some people who deserve our heartfelt thanks. These are the good people and companies who donated a fabulous treasure trove of items for our CWA Conference goody-bags and raffles. Remember, these folks really notice and appreciate our personal thanks, so write those notes today!

* = Raffle Prize
+ = New Participant

Amber Lotus

Lawson Day
Amber Lotus Publishing
5018 NE 22nd Avenue, Studio A
Portland, OR 97211
lday@amberlotus.com
www.amberlotus.com
(2010 Bohemian Cats calendars, Urban Tails note cards)

Aruba Cat+*

Arty Mitchell
P.O. Box 695
Plaistow, NH 03865
www.arubacat.com
(scratching post)



ASPCA

Jacque Schultz
520 Eighth Avenue, Seventh Floor
New York, NY 10018
jacques@aspca.org
www.aspca.org
(telephone sticky pad)

Bamboo Pets

Jennifer Campana
16689 Schoenborn Street
North Hills, CA 91343
jennifer.campana@munchkin.com
www.bamboo-fatcat.com
(Fat Cat EEEKS!® cat toy)

BISSELL Homecare, Inc.*

Beth Jester
P.O. Box 3606
Grand Rapids, MI 49544
Beth.Jester@bissell.com
<http://www.bissell.com/spotbot-pet/>
(1 Spot Bot® carpet cleaner)

Cats Rule®

RuthAnne Miller
10621 Sixth Street
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730
ram@catsrule.com
www.catsrule.com
(Litter Box Fragrance Refresher)

CENTRAL LIFE SCIENCES/COMFORT ZONE® WITH FELIWAY®

Carrie Foote, Public Relations Manager
301 W. Osborn Road
Phoenix, AZ 85013
cfoote@central.com
www.centrallifesciences.com
(Comfort Zone® gift baskets*, Comfort Zone® with Feliway®, Comfort Zone® with D.A.P.®)

Dog Trakker® LLC+*

Todd Ortiz
220 East Seaver Street
Ithaca, MI 48847
todd@dogtrakker.net
www.dogtrakker.net
(Giddy Dog Chews)

DuckyWorld Products Inc.

Stephanie Hofhenke, Design & Marketing Coordinator
2010 East Hennepin Avenue, Box 44
Minneapolis, MN 55413
stephanie@duckyworld.com
www.duckyworld.com
(YEOWWWW!® Stinkies™ Catnip Sardines)

E.A.T.s - Edible Animal Treats

Brett Buchanan
330 Detroit Ave, Suite A
Monroe, MI 48162
brett@pawbreakers.com
www.pawbreakers.com
(Pawbreakers!® edible toys & VitaNip®)

Fe-Lines, Inc./Sticky Paws®

Bonnie Pemberton
2806 6th Avenue
Fort Worth, TX 76110
kittichik@aol.com
<http://www.stickypaws.com>
(Sticky Paws® gift boxes)

Full Circle Herb Co.

Ed Cooley
39582 Mohawk Loop
Marcola, OR 97454
hotcatshome@epud.net
www.fullcircleherb.com/main.html
(Hot Cats® catnip toys)

Furry Travelers Inc.*

Nancy Cribb
2004 SW 35th Ave.
Delray Beach, FL 33445
furrytravelers@bellsouth.net
www.furrytravelers.com
(1 To Go Bowl)

HALO, Purely for Pets

David Yaskulka
12400 Race Track Road
Tampa, FL 33626
DYaskulka@HALOPETS.COM
www.halopets.com
(Halo Spot's Stew® kibble and canned cat food)

John Paul Pet LLC

P.O. Box 98437
Las Vegas, Nevada 89074
<http://www.johnpaulpet.com/>
pet wipes

Kong Company

Robert Cohrs
16191 Table Mountain Parkway
Golden, CO 80403
robert.cohrs@kongcompany.com
www.kongcompany.com
(Moppy toys)

Litter-Lifter®+

Maurice
6065 Roswell Road, Suite 1165
Atlanta, GA 30328
www.Litter-Lifter.com
(Original, Beamer™, and Travel™ Litter-Lifter® cat litter scoops)

Nekochan™ Enterprises Inc.+

Joe Bonin
1373 Admiral Place, Suite 103
Ferndale, WA 98248
joebonin@nekochan.ca
<http://www.nekoflies.com>
(Katarantula and Kragonfly cat toys with rod)

PETCO Foundation

Paul Jolly
7262 North Rosemead Blvd.
San Gabriel, CA 91775
paul.jolly@petco.com
<http://www.petco.com>
(hand sanitizer)

Petfinder.com

Susan Greene
P.O. Box 394
Spencer, NY 14883
susan@petfinder.com
<http://www.Petfinder.com>
(book marks, bumper stickers)

Premier Pet Products

Janet Velenovsky
14201 Sommerville Court
Midlothian, VA 23113
jvelenovsky@premier.com
www.premier.com
(Funkitty™ Egg-Cersizer™, toys, clickers, harnesses)

Rosie Sorenson*

3712 Stoneglen North
Richmond, CA 94806
theyhadmeatmeow@aol.com
<http://www.theyhadmeatmeow.com/index.html>
(note cards)



(continued)

THANKS TO DONORS OF DOOR PRIZES *(continued)*

SC Johnson & Son

Toby Simpkins
Dawn Prust
Marketing Services
Home Cleaning Brands
gtsimpki@scj.com
DNPrust@scj.com
(Pledge® Fabric Sweeper)

Sharon Darrow+*

P.O. Box 214673
Sacramento, CA 95821
bottlekatz@sbcglobal.net
<http://www.bottlekatz.com/>
(2 copies of *BottleKatz, A Complete Care Guide for Orphan Kittens*)

Stephanie Piro*

27 River Rd.
Farmington, NH 03835
stephaniepiro@gmail.com
www.stephaniepiro.com
(designer CWA buttons)

Stretch and Scratch

Joan Laisney
P.O. Box 230057
Encinitas, CA 92023
contact@stretchandscratch.com
<http://www.stretchandscratch.com>
(Stretch and Scratch cat scratchers)

The Hartz Mountain Corporation

Jennifer Dombkowski
400 Plaza Drive
Secaucus, NJ 07094
JDombkowski@hartz.com
www.hartz.com
(No Odor® Litter Spray, Hairball Remedy Plus™
for Cats and Kittens Soft Chews, Crunch 'n
Clean® Cat Treats)

Vivian Dickson*

PO Box 343
Provincetown, MA 02657
vivie100@gmail.com
(handmade cat tile)

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/
(coupons)

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!



CFA Foundation to Open Cat Museum in 2011

Karen Lawrence, board member of the CFA Foundation, Inc., the Cat Fancy Association's nonprofit historical branch, announces that the Foundation has collected cat memorabilia and artifacts for over 20 years and plans to open a cat museum in June on the ground floor of CFA's new office building in Alliance, Ohio. The museum library will have more than 1,500 books in it, and is open to receiving book donations. Cat collectibles are welcome, especially breed-related information, old magazines, cat show memorabilia, and artwork. The web site is <http://www.felinehistoricalfoundation.org>.

Cat Writers' Association Conference EARLY BIRD SPONSORS for 2011

Thanks always to all of our sponsors, but thanks especially to our "early birds" who have already promised once again to support our annual conference.

Fe-lines, Inc./Sticky Paws®

Merial

Nestle/Purina Pet Care Company

Pet Sitters International

Precious Cat, Inc.

Premier Pet Products

Sergeant's®

Sherpa Pet Group™

Amy D. Shojai

World's Best Cat Litter®

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

By Wendy Christensen, CWA Secretary

If you are one of the VERY few members who have NOT renewed — and still want to — please pay your dues right away. Your 2011 renewal dues are overdue NOW. There are two ways to pay:

1. PayPal: via your own PayPal account or a major credit card. Go to <http://www.catwriters.org/renewal.html>. (Be sure to include your full name so we don't have to guess who you are!).

2. Write a check for US \$20.00, payable to the CWA, and snail-mail it to the

CWA Treasurer: Allene Tartaglia
9024 SW 91st Circle
Ocala FL 34481





CAT WRITERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.
FINANCIAL STATEMENT for JANUARY 1, 2010 - DECEMBER 31, 2010



INCOME*1:

GRANTS, GIFTS, CONTRIBUTIONS

Awards for Writing Contest 2010:

Amy Shojai	\$ 500.00
Cat Fanciers' Association	\$ 250.00
Cornell Feline Health Center	\$ 500.00
Fe-lines Inc./Sticky Paws	\$ 500.00
Hartz Mountain Corporation	\$ 3,000.00
Merial	\$ 1,000.00
Nestle/Purina	\$ 3,500.00
Petfinder.com	\$ 1,275.00
The International Cat Association (TICA)	\$ 500.00
World's Best Cat Litter	\$ 500.00

SUBTOTAL AWARDS 2010 \$11,525.00

Corporate Grants for Conference 2010:

ASPCA	\$ 3,500.00
CFA	\$ 750.00

Cat Fancy/Bow Tie, Inc.	\$ 1,000.00
Central Life Sciences	\$ 1,500.00
Hartz Mountain Corp.	\$ 8,500.00
Morris Animal Foundation	\$ 3,000.00
Nestle Purina PetCare Co.	\$ 5,000.00
PetCo Foundation	\$ 500.00
Pet Sitters International	\$ 250.00
Petfinder.com	\$ 1,000.00
Precious Cat, Inc	\$ 500.00
Premier Pet Products Inc.	\$ 500.00
Sergeant's Pet Products	\$ 1,000.00
Sherpa Pet Group, LLC	\$ 500.00
The International Cat Association (TICA)	\$ 250.00

SUBTOTAL CONFERENCE 2010 \$27,750.00

TOTAL ALL SPONSORSHIPS **\$39,275.00**

DUES*

New members 2010	(40)	\$ 1,200.00
Renewals 2010*2	(231)	\$ 4,620.00
Renewals 2011	(167)	\$ 3,340.00
New members for 2011	(4)	\$ 120.00

SUBTOTAL dues 2010 & 2011 \$ 9,280.00

REVENUES CONTEST/CONFERENCE

Writing contest fees 2010	\$2,943.00
Conference registrations 2010	\$ 3,530.00
Conference book sales 2010*3	\$ 1,515.00

SUBTOTAL CONTEST/CONFERENCE 2010 \$ 7,988.00
 Late receipts from book sale-Conference 2009*4 \$ 2,444.40

TOTAL ALL OTHER INCOME **\$19,712.40**

GRAND TOTAL INCOME **\$58,987.40**

EXPENSES

2010 CONFERENCE & CONTEST

Awards (Writing Contest)*5	\$12,275.00
Conference Scholarship (Premier)	\$ 500.00
Membership Bounty (Central Life Sciences)	\$ 500.00
Crowne Plaza Hotel bill (catering & rooms)	\$32,553.45
Barnes and Noble (conference book sale)	\$ 558.16
Payments to authors (conference book sale)	\$ 692.10
Muse medallions	\$ 1,146.43
Contest chair stipend	\$ 1,000.00
Contest plaques	\$ 91.62
Administrative Contest *6	
reimbursement to contest chair	\$ 959.75
other contest reimbursements (to date)	\$ 4.90
Administrative Conference*6	
reimbursement book booth coordinator	\$ 92.25
reimbursement registrations coordinator	\$ 194.96

SUBTOTAL CONTEST/CONFERENCE 2010 \$50,568.62

DISBURSEMENTS TO MEMBERS

Reimbursements for 2009 expenses

2009 Conference booklet & awards program	\$ 63.20
Reimbursement for 1 issue MEOW published 2009	\$ 523.03
Newsletter editor stipend (1 issue unpaid in 2009)	\$ 100.00

Reimbursements for 2010 expenses

Reimbursement for 4 issues MEOW published 2010	\$ 1,633.09
Newsletter editor stipend (4 issues in 2010)	\$ 800.00
Web site (webmistress) stipend 2010	\$ 700.00
Directory 2010 (publishing/ mailing costs)	\$ 662.59
Membership cards 2010 (mailed with directories)	\$ 14.16
Refund of registration (a volunteer comped)	\$ 100.00
CWA membership pins (new)	\$ 775.00
CWA projector (for power point presentations)	\$ 390.99
Administrative operating expenses (postage, phone etc):	
Reimbursement secretary	\$ 161.96
Reimbursement treasurer	\$ 62.12
Reimbursement president	\$ 36.30

OTHER EXPENSES

PayPal fees contest, conference & dues (Feb-Dec.)	\$ 220.51
PayPal "chargebacks & disputes"	\$ 28.83
Contracted services (Web site DataRealm 2010)	\$ 89.55
New bank account charges (checks 2010)	\$ 18.50
Payments to authors for 2009 book sale	\$ 618.30
Chase credit card — unpaid 2009 balance	\$ 768.63
Chase credit card late/penalty charges (2009 conference)	\$ 153.95

TOTAL ALL EXPENSES (to date, as of 12-31-10) **\$58,589.33**

=====

NET GAIN (or LOSS) \$ 398.07

=====

CURRENT OPERATING CAPITAL

CD principal (11-8-10)	\$24,192.76
Checkbook balance (12-31-10)*7	\$23,121.21
Paypal balance (12-31-10)*8	\$ 1,120.62

TOTAL BALANCE CWA FUNDS **\$48,434.59**

(Comparison: Reported Total Funds on 12-31-09 in MEOW \$49,206.49)

—Compiled by Former Treasurer Fran Pennock Shaw 1-10-11

NOTES: Jill Richardson resigned as treasurer. Fran Pennock Shaw and Su Ewing took over treasurer responsibilities in early February 2010.

*1. Income from dues, writing contest entries, and registrations are based on amounts paid by check and via PayPal. However, PayPal's varying fees were deducted in the final transfers from PayPal to the CWA bank account, and those fees (averaging 3%) are listed separately under expenses.

*2. Dues are still coming in for 2011. Because of an incomplete transfer of treasurer's records, some of this dues income for 2010 may have already been reported in the 2009 treasurer's report (i.e., 2010 dues paid in the fall of 2009).

*3. The net earnings for CWA from the 2010 conference book sale was \$264.74 after book purchases and author payments.

*4. Late receipts from the book sale-conference 2009 should have been deposited in 2009 but were delayed. This additional income, deposited in February 2010, increases our revenue total but is a one-time anomaly. Our total income for 2010 would be about \$1,800 less without this unusual deposit, and ultimately CWA would have shown a net loss of about \$1,400 for the year.

*5. The 2010 Contest awards includes \$750 in CWA-sponsored awards (added to the \$11,525 in sponsor contributions).

*6. Conference and Contest expenses for 2010 (e.g., mailing costs) are still coming in and will be paid in 2011.

*7. The checking account balance as of 12/31/10 reflects all checks written to that date, although some have not been cashed.

*8. The PayPal balance is funds deposited but not yet transferred into our checking account as of 12/31/10.

CWA's Annual General Membership Meeting and Membership Breakfast

Sunday morning, November 20, 2010

The Cat Writers' Association Membership Breakfast was sponsored by Hartz Mountain Corporation. Dr. Elizabeth Cohen spoke for the sponsor. She is a veterinarian who practices in New York City and Long Island. She lectures on many animal-related subjects and offers her services to several nonprofit organizations. The CWA's Annual General Membership Meeting was officially called to order at 9 a.m.

Officers and directors present: Su Ewing, president; Dusty Rainbolt, vice president; Fran Pennock Shaw, acting treasurer; Amy Shojai, past president. Wendy Christensen, secretary, was staffing the CWA book booth at the Westchester County Center.

Secretary's report: Reading waived.

Treasurer's report: Fran Pennock Shaw said that the full year-end treasurer's report will be published in the next newsletter, but preliminary data shows we had 268 members as of October 31, 2010, and 34 new members joined by that date. As of early November, only 15 members had renewed, but most people pay their year's dues at the end of December or early January. She also noted that many more are using CWA's PayPal option for dues as well as contest fees and conference registrations, which means that CWA is inherently losing a little of its income to PayPal's operating fees. The overall financial status of CWA is sound.

Election of new board members:

The slate of officers/nominating committee report was presented by Fran Shaw. The nominating committee, consisting of Linda Kay Hardie, chair, Barbara Florio Graham, and Fran Pennock Shaw, unanimously proposed the following slate for officers and directors for 2011:

President: Susan Ewing

Vice President: Dusty Rainbolt

Secretary: Wendy Christensen

Treasurer: Allene Tartaglia

Council of Directors: Lyn Garson, Ramona Marek, Clea Simon

Motion was made by Amy Shojai to accept the slate, seconded by John McGonagle. The slate was elected by a unanimous voice vote.

Committee reports

Autograph Party report:

Because CWA book signing coordinator Lyn Garson

fell ill Friday, Fran Shaw and Wendy Christensen coordinated the book booth sales and activities following Lyn's guidelines. Fran presented a brief book sales report, noting that sales were somewhat slow for the three-day event, but various Westchester Feline Club (TICA) show representatives were very helpful and cooperative. The one real problem is fundamental – the Westchester club expects the CWA booth to be manned the entire length of the show every day, as a traditional vendor would do, but CWA has no book store sponsor so all the work is being done by our volunteering writers. Fran also mentioned her special thanks to Carole Stevens Bibisi and Fran's husband Ray Shaw, who set up the book booth all afternoon Friday as a last-minute favor.

[Subsequent note: The CWA book-signing booth did about \$1,500 in sales over the three days, offset by a book inventory costing about \$550 and payments to authors of about \$700.]

Other Business:

Su Ewing announced that the 2011 CWA conference will again be in White Plains, N.Y., at the same approximate time, the end of November. She mentioned that a new Long-Range Planning Committee, chaired by Director Paul Glassner, will begin investigating possible sites and linkages for CWA conferences in 2012 and 2013.

There was no other business or reports from the floor.

Motion to adjourn made by Dusty Rainbolt, seconded by Amy Shojai.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Pennock Shaw, Acting Secretary

CWA Council of Directors

Report on Meetings

Online Meetings via Email, 2009-2010

Because of time constraints, the Council did not hold a formal meeting at the 2010 conference, other than to approve the minutes from last year.

Council is meeting via e-mail and is currently discussing monetary issues in an effort to cut the costs of the conference.

We hope to offer our decisions in the next issue of MEOW.

—Susan M. Ewing, CWA President

Cat Writers' Association 2011 Conference Ideas Questionnaire

It's hard to believe that it's already time to start thinking about the 2011 CWA Conference! This year I am seeking suggestions from members before putting together the list of topics we'll use to craft the theme and offerings at our upcoming (fabulous, you can be sure!) conference. Please answer the questions and return this questionnaire to me by email or regular mail. Also, let me know if you have any contacts for potential speakers, editors, or agents in the New York City area or if you would like to speak at the conference. — Dusty Rainbolt, CWA Vice President

I did ___ did not ___ attend the 2010 CWA Writers' Conference in White Plains, N.Y.

I plan ___ do not plan ___ don't know ___ on attending the 2011 conference.

If you attended, which seminars did you like the most? _____

Which did you like least? _____

Which of the following seminar topics would you most like to see next year? Choose up to 10 topics and rate them numerically with #1 being your first preference, or list topics you like us to cover.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Using Story-Telling Techniques to Improve Your Writing | <input type="checkbox"/> They Never Forget: Avoiding Agregious Submissions Error (Yes, I know there are typos) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Designing Your Own Web Page/Benefits of a Web Page | <input type="checkbox"/> The Serious Business of Writing Humor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Behavior Issues/Hot Topics Panel | <input type="checkbox"/> O Come All Ye Faithful: Writing For Readers of Faith |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research for Fiction and Nonfiction (sources, organization, and how to use research in your work) | <input type="checkbox"/> Finding Web Work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writing Dialogue That Sings | <input type="checkbox"/> Dealing with Disputes (editors, agents, writing partners, PR departments) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blogging | <input type="checkbox"/> Promotion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writing and Selling Personal Experience Articles | <input type="checkbox"/> That's My Story and I'm Sticking to It – Fiction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moving from Nonfiction to Fiction | <input type="checkbox"/> Soundbites That Have Them Coming Back for More: Getting Publicity & Dealing with the Media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fiction: Small-Group Manuscript Critiques | <input type="checkbox"/> Book Proposals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writing for Young Adults | <input type="checkbox"/> Opinions Are Like Trashcans: How To Keep Them Interesting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Podcast | <input type="checkbox"/> Book Trailers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Breaking into Other Genres (travel, food, health, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> YouTube for Writers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writers' Tool Kit (resources: best books, software, web sites & pet sites; finding good sources; and the benefits of attending conferences) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agents | |

What other specific seminar topics would you suggest? _____

Do you know anyone in the NYC area who would make a good presenter? _____

Do you know any NYC-area editors or agents who would be willing to join us? _____

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 to CWA Vice President Dusty Rainbolt by March 7, 2011.

Email: dustyrainbolt@pobox.com

Snail mail: Dusty Rainbolt, P.O. Box 293413, Lewisville, TX 75029-3413

Your Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone/Email _____

Please send this now!

WELCOME MAT



NEW MEMBERS [member numbers in brackets]

Laurie Kaplan [P642-10], P.O. Box 2574, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510; 914-941-0159; Email: Laurie.Kaplan@jangenpress.com, Laurie.kaplan@themagicbulletfund.org; Web sites: www.helpyourdogfightcancer.com, www.themagicbulletfund.org; Blog: lauriekaplan.com. Laurie Kaplan's special interests are small animal medical issues, cancer in pets, and grief and pet loss. She's the author of *Help Your Dog Fight Cancer: What Every Caretaker Should Know*; *So Easy to Love, So Hard to Lose*; and *A Bridge to Healing Before and After the Loss of a Pet* (JanGen Press). She's also the co-author of *Canine and Feline Geriatric Oncology: Honoring the Human-Animal Bond* (Blackwell-Wiley). She's the founder and administrator of The Magic Bullet Fund, "fighting canine cancer one dog at a time." She's the former editor of *Catnip* magazine. Laurie's sponsors are Dusty Rainbolt and Wendy Christensen.

Jennifer L. Levenson de Sanchez [P644-10], Cascina Gatta, Strada della Gatta 2, Felizzano 15023 AL, Italy; + 39 0131 772580 (home), + 39 333 921 6642 (cell); Email: casadotty@gmail.com; Web site: www.acatinnewyork.com. Jennifer writes, "For five years, I have been writing about my life buying and doing up a farmhouse in Italy where I live with my family, dog, and two cats. One of the cats came with us from England, the other we found squatting in the derelict house." Jennifer is the author of *A Cat in New York* (XLibris), available as an ebook. She is working on a sequel. Jennifer's sponsor is Wendy Christensen.

Lindsay Miller [P643-10], 40 Arboredge Way, Fitchburg, WI 53711; 847-254-2186; Email: Mills1776@gmail.com; Web site: www.examiner.com/cat-rescue-in-chicago/lindsay-miller. Lindsay Miller is a writer whose interests are cat rescue, animal rescue, animal law, pet care, and pet health. She's an adoption counselor at PAWS Chicago, a no-kill animal shelter. She's also a Humane Society volunteer. Her sponsor is Barbara Kohn.

Pat Steer [P645-10], P.O. Box 564, East Syracuse, NY 13057; 315-727-6359; Email: Gaelen2@yahoo.com; Web sites: <http://patsteer.com>, <http://dogtrainerslog.com>. Pat Steer is a writer and dog trainer. She specializes in multi-species training, greyhound rescue and training, and animal health. She's a member of DWAA and is the [examiner.com](http://www.examiner.com) dog training columnist in Syracuse, N.Y. Pat Steer's sponsor is Deb Eldredge, DVM.

Saul Weber [P646-10], 140 Elgar Place, Apt. 33D, Bronx, NY 10475-5221; 917-583-7124; Email: Saweb22@aol.com; Web site: www.authorsden.com/saulweber. Saul Weber is a writer of children's books. He's the author of *A Lesson My Cat Taught Me* (SAWEB Books, 2007). Saul's sponsor is Wendy Christensen.

Julie Stanton Welch [P647-10], 208 N. Sims Street, Kings Mountain, NC 28086; 704-214-0792 (home), 704-869-3473 (business); Email: mygraycat@gmail.com, seamuskitty@hotmail.com; Web site: www.seamuskitty.com. Julie Stanton Welch is a writer with interests in Bengal cats, FIP, and FIP research fundraising. Julie's sponsors are Ingrid King, Amy Shojai, Susan Gingrich, and Nancy Reeves. ♥

Let's all hold CWA member Heike Hagenguth in our hearts while unrest persists in Egypt. Though safe for the moment in another country, Heike can't wait to return to her home in Cairo.

Bits & Bytes



Greta Beigel's book *Mewsings: My Life as a Jewish Cat* is now on sale for Kindle and the NOOK™ reader. In it, the beloved Ketzela pontificates, in rhyme, on what it takes to be a devout calico in a religious household in modern Jewish times. Get a copy at <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00486U5YS>. Greta also read/recorded her book, collaborating with Grammy nominated-composer and keyboardist Michael Hoppe; so now *Mewsings* is available for download at itunes, cdbaby.com, and Amazon MP3. For details, contact gretabeigel@yahoo.com.

The Florida Publishers Association awarded CWA's Victor DiGenti a President's Book Awards 2010 Silver Medal for his book *Windrusher and the Trail of Fire*, the third installment of DiGenti's award-winning trilogy about an adventurous cat (Ocean Publishing, 2008). Victor was also one of the featured speakers last fall at the 9th Annual Florida Writers Association Conference. *Windrusher's* fast-paced books are available at www.windrusher.com and elsewhere (including Kindle). For more information, email Victor at victor@windrusher.com.

Patricia Fry's kitty Lily appeared on the March 15 page of the *Workman 2011 Cat-a-Day* calendar; her photo also appears on the calendar box. Lily, who recovered from a head injury incurred when a cat tree was tipped over on her, is also the cover girl for Patricia's latest book *Catscapades, True Cat Tales*.

Catherine Holm's first book of short stories was published by Holy Cow! Press. The book is *My Heart Is a Mountain: Tales of Magic and the Land* (Holy Cow! Press, 2010). From northern Minnesota to Alaska, from the Dust bowl to Appalachia, from swamps to mountains to the afterlife, magic and the mundane meet as characters discover themselves. See www.catherineholm.com.

Marilyn Krieger, CCBC, has a new book, *Cat Fancy's Naughty No More!*, which details how to successfully solve troublesome cat behavior, challenges, using clicker training combined with education and other positive solutions. It's available through Amazon and elsewhere; check it out at <http://www.thecatcoach.com/clickyourcats.html>.

Tim Link has a new radio show, *Animal Writes*, on Pet Life Radio, <http://www.petliferadio.com>. (He still does his *Critter Corner* show on All Paws Pet Talk Radio.) Here's a link to the show podcasts: <http://feeds.feedburner.com/Petliferadiocom-AnimalWrites-AnimalWritersAndBest-sellingAuthors>. Tim will interview best-selling pet-related authors, award-winning writers and journalists who write about animals, and bloggers with pet topics to share. Among his early interviewees are Glenn Plaskin, W. Bruce Cameron, Larry Levin, and Arden Moore. Contact Tim at timlink@wagging-tales.com for details.

CWA member Shirley Rousseau Murphy has a new book out – *Cat Coming Home*, the 16th in her series of Joe Grey mystery books. This latest book brings back favorites like Joe, Dulcie, and Kit for a heartwarming holiday tale. Shirley's *Cat Striking Back* was a CWA 2010 Muse Medallion™ winner for best novel – Shirley's ninth win in this category. For details, go to <http://www.joegrey.com/>. You'll find links for book purchases, downloads, signed copies, and more! Congratulations, Shirley!

Bits & Bytes (continued)

Amy Shojai has posted several articles for Pawning including one about how to make a “cat safe” Christmas tree. The direct link is in her blog. **Amy has also posted two videos about CWA conference happenings AND cat show/judging** (You'll see TICA's Vickie Fisher in action with some gorgeous cats). Amy hopes it's a fun look for those who attended and a “tease” for those who missed the conference this year, but can make plans for next. Here's the link to the blog: <http://www.redroom.com/blog/amy-d-shojai/feline-friday-a-cat-mas-tree-pet-proofing-cat-show-fun>.

Debra J. White's story about her dog Maxine was published in the book *Dogs and the Women Who Love Them*. Debra acquired Maxine in 1988 from a crack addict she encountered while going to the subway from her job in a gritty section of the South Bronx. Maxine was with Debra in 1994 when Debra was run over. “At the age of 39, I wasn't prepared to lose a lot of my mobility and my working life,” Debra recalls. “Maxine kept me grounded. She's gone now but other rescued pets have needed me since.” See <http://www.dogsandthewomenwholovethem.com/>.

Allia Zobel Nolan's new book, *The Lord's Prayer for Little Ones*, was published on February 1 by Harvest House.

Address Changes

Andrea Dorn has a new email address: adorn@iowatelecom.net.

Ann Fisher's new email address is annf9@msn.com.

Debra J. White's correct contact information is 2401 W. Southern

CWA MEMBERS NOMINATED IN THE 2010 DWAA WRITING CONTEST:

Sheila Boneham	Fran Pennock Shaw
Andrea Dorn	Debbie Waller
Deb M. Eldredge, DVM	Debra J. White

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Michael Brim Distinguished Service Award

Michael W. Brim was a respected colleague, a brilliant writer, savvy public relations specialist, dedicated cat connoisseur, outspoken feline advocate, and my CWA partner-in-cat-crime. Michael was the founding Vice President of the CWA and served as the organization's first vice president from 1992 until 2003 when he stepped down – he held office longer than any other person, to date. He was subsequently elected to lifetime director status of the organization in 2003. When Michael died on April 8, 2010, the cat world wept – and CWA lost its father.



A committee headed by Allene Tartaglia and Fran Pennock Shaw fashioned a lasting memorial to continue his legacy. The Michael Brim Distinguished Service Award, sponsored by CWA, honors extraordinary achievement and communications excellence. It recognizes the person who, by word, deed, public communication, and professional excellence, best promotes the ideals, mission, and best interest of the Cat Writers Association. Nominees can include (but are not limited to), editors or publicists whose published work or actions have had a significant impact on improving the quality of life of cats, educating the public, promoting responsible cat breeding and ownership, and/or facilitating the professional growth of cat writers. The honoree shall receive \$500 and his or her name engraved on a permanent commemorative plaque.

The first recipient of the award is Michael Brim. His name will go on the permanent award, and the \$500 was gifted in his name to a charity dear to his heart, the Winn Feline Foundation.

— *By Amy D. Shojai*

Winn Foundation Media Appreciation Award Presented to Susan Logan at the 2010 CWA Conference



Photo courtesy of Sandy Robins

Winn Foundation Board Member Steve Dale presented the 2010 Winn Feline Foundation Media Appreciation Award to Susan Logan, editor of *Cat Fancy* magazine for the past seven years.

Under her leadership, *Cat Fancy* magazine has received five CWA Muse Medallions™ and she's earned a pair of Muse Medallions™ for her own column. A tireless defender of wild cats and an advocate for improvement of cats' health and status in the world, Logan calls herself "mom" to 2-year old Maine Coon and Turkish Angora mixed-breed cats Madison and Sophie.

MARKET NEWS

Dena Harris advises that a new company called Vital Locket (<http://www.vitallocket.com/>) allows you to create a secure online profile containing medical records for your family and pets. Pet bloggers who want to try the product for free and blog about it should go to the web site and make contact directly with Founder Jay Osterholt (say Dena referred you), or find the company on Facebook.



Rosie Sorenson, MA, MFT, reports a call for pet health articles from <http://www.pitchrate.com> (similar to HARO).

The Cat's MEOW

Look What the Cat Dragged In: Mom's Home!

By Meow Editor Karen Payne

Last issue, my cats published an appeal to have their mom – ME – trapped and brought back home to them. They rightly suspected that I was neglecting them because of a cat rescue effort. Though a little the worse for wear, I'm glad to report that I am back among them now, soaking up the purrs and loving pats of my own pussycats. I returned myself and my attention to them after my latest (and I hope my last) rescued kitties all found good homes.

With serendipity, luck, and help from my friends, including dear CWA-ers, we found wonderful cat lovers to adopt the kitties.

The beautiful little family of loving sweethearts (a mom cat and four kittens) had been abandoned near my home. My two cat-crazy rescue partners, neighbors Joan and Judy, and I threw out our appeals far and wide, but the right adopters didn't show up – only "wrong-uns" and people who wanted to give US cats they had found. Finding homes – a piece of cake, right? Wrong!!

Luckily, we found great allies, including kind Bernadette Kazmarski, who embraced our efforts after she learned that our most charming kitten was to be named Peaches in honor of Bernadette's own precious cat Peaches, who had recently gone to kitty heaven. Bernadette really ran with it, posting an irresistible Peaches-and-family story on her Portraits of Animals web site. Linda Mohr also helped with social media. Bless them!

But when all this, plus my usual adoption emails, personal contacts, and flyers still failed to produce results, I began to feel hopeless. Reluctantly, I turned to Twitter, Facebook, and other social media which are all fairly new to me. Nice responses, but still no solutions.

To my amazement, the first adoption was not for an adorable kitten, but for their mom, Emma, whose gentle ways attracted several requests. A neighbor we know and trust, who has another nice cat, adopted her. By then, the kittens were well over four months old, so they adjusted well.

Next, an email caught the eye of a student who had seen my Star Jasmine at her first public performance two years ago at Florida International University. She recruited a teacher, who also knew Jasmine, to adopt Peaches and Tristan together as companions for her older cat. Again, we had the pleasure of adopting to someone we knew and trusted.

After several months of despair, at last my emails touched the heart of Jill Beach, a former Miami TV anchor and friend of 25 years, who had adopted lovely cat Mandy from me three years ago (at that time, she saw a flyer on a retail store's bulletin board and deduced that I had posted it!). Jill and her husband Les decided to adopt Benjy, but could take only one kitten. None of us liked to separate the bonded pair of Benjy and Toby, so we delayed. A request for both kittens was nixed since the inexperienced young couple already had an abused cat who needed all their attention. Meanwhile, Jill worked like crazy to find a home for Toby, asking literally everyone she met – friends, family, co-workers, even passers-by.

As I prepared to drive north to Jupiter, Florida, for the funeral of Joan's beloved mom, who died just after the holidays, the call we prayed for finally arrived. A wonderful woman who lives in Jupiter had adopted from us before. She had posted our kitten flyer in her medical office, and every day she looked at the flyer and wondered whether one of the kittens would someday be hers. Other people offered her kittens, but she refused.



Catlyn and Karen

At last she called, saying Toby was a perfect match for her, so he rode up with me to start his new life on the day we said good-bye to Joan's mom. And Jill and her husband were delighted with Benjy. The separation was sad for the kittens, who required extra attention, yet all went well. Emma and her kittens are now with people who love them.

It amazes me that every single rescue is a story unto itself – full of ups and downs, tears and laughter, struggle, heartache, and – with luck – triumph in the end when the kitties are safe and happy in their forever homes.

I never wanted to do rescue work because I find it too agonizing. And now, I must stop because I can't afford to take care of any more kitties. If the right home isn't found, the rescuer gets to keep another cat. My heart breaks when I think of the millions of homeless cats and kittens whose only crime is having no home, and who wind up cold, lonely, hungry, hurt, and dying on the streets and in the killing fields of shelters. This genocide simply has to stop! To everybody who does anything to help the cats – through rescue, education, financial contributions, storytelling, anything at all – thank you! To CWA's devoted cat writers and cat advocates, thank you!

And to my own cats, bless you for your forbearance – and, Lord, especially bless my eldest, Countess Catlyn, who had expected to have a happy life as a solo cat. I am home with you now; thank God, I am home. ♥

Update on Kari Winters' cats from Darlene Arden: *Suki, the elderly Siamese, was the only one of Kari's cats still awaiting a home. I'm happy that she now has her forever home where she is not just loved, but adored.... And, I'm still seeking justice for Kari.... I'm not going away.*

A Message from the Editor

MEOW's priorities are to inform members about the activities of our group and, when space permits, to address writing topics and discuss our favorite subject, cats. For a couple of years, I have collected information by trolling the CWA Pro-list. Now, to have your accomplishments noted in *MEOW*, please email me directly at karen90@attglobal.net using the word MEOOMEWS. Also, we need more member input for articles, cartoons, poems, and short pieces, so please submit material or suggestions to me. No pay, but you can enter the contest and your work will be seen by an influential group (us!). As a serious illness in my family might force me to suspend publication of *MEOW*, I need someone who is familiar with Publisher (the program used for *MEOW*) as a back-up editor who could take over temporarily if needed. Please email me, and then we can discuss this. Someday, another editor will need to produce *MEOW* – I won't last 13 years, as Editor Emeritus Betsy Stowe did. Bless her heart! I hope the newsletter will increasingly be read online so the job of mailing print newsletters can end, and the next step, one day, may be to change from a print/PDF to a web-only publication. Please tell me what you think!

SPECIAL DAYS FOR CATS



Nancy Marano's web site lists cat-related holidays; see <http://www.petroglyphsnm.org/dates11.html>. A sample:



FEBRUARY

PREVENT-A-LITTER MONTH

(Humane Society of the United States - [HSUS](#))

PET DENTAL MONTH

(American Veterinary Medical Association - [AVMA](#) and American Veterinary Dental Society - [AVDS](#))

RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERS MONTH

Weeks:

3rd week --- Random Acts of Kindness Week
(help local shelters)

Days:

14 --- Pet Theft Awareness Day ([Last Chance for Animals](#))

20 --- Love-Your-Pet Day (always)

Last Tuesday --- Spay Day USA ([HSUS](#))

~ 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 2010 contest winners in this issue – but it's time to start thinking ahead to the 2011 contest as well. Members of the 2011 Contest Committee will be Marion Lane, Anne Leighton, Stephanie Piro, Dusty Rainbolt, Fran Shaw, Betsy Stowe, and Sandra Toney. Please email me if you wish to serve on the Contest Committee. Both Professional and Associate CWA members can serve on the Contest Committee.

The success of the contest depends on your participation, not only with your contest entries, but also as judges. Each regular category requires three judges. To be a contest judge, you must be a Professional CWA member. Please study the categories listed below. Currently, they are the same as they were last year. If there are changes in the future, I will notify everyone and ask for more judges. After you look over the categories, please email me at nmarano@aol.com with a list of the categories you would be willing to judge. List them in the order of preference. Remember, you cannot judge a category you are likely to enter, so please don't include those categories on your list. I'm also looking for people to be Special Awards judges. If you know someone who is not a member of CWA and would be a good Special Award judge, please send me the name and contact information.

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

CWA 2011 COMMUNICATION CONTEST REGULAR CATEGORIES

I. Magazines

- I.1 – Monthly Magazine
- I.2 – Magazine Article – Health and General Care
- I.3 – Magazine Article – Behavior and Training
- I.4 – Magazine Article – Any Other Topic
- I.5 – Magazine – Column
- I.6 – Magazine – Regional
- I.7 – Magazine – Regional – Article – Health and General Care
- I.8 – Magazine – Regional – Article – Behavior and Training
- I.9 – Magazine – Regional – Article – Any Other Topic
- I.10 – Magazine – Regional – Column

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

III. Newsletters

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

- III.1 – Newsletter – Breed Specific
- III.2 – Newsletter – National Circulation
- III.3 – Newsletter – Regional or Membership Circulation
- III.4 – Newsletter Article – Health and General Care
- III.5 – Newsletter Article – Behavior and Training
- III.6 – Newsletter Article – Any Other Topic
- III.7 – Newsletter Column

IV. Miscellaneous

- IV.1 – Short Story
- IV.2 – Poem
- IV.3 – Humor
- IV.4 – Brochure, Pamphlet, Short Publication
- IV.5 – Annual or Long Publication
- IV.6 – Opinion Piece, Essay or Editorial
- IV.7 – PR / Humane Education / Press Kits

V. Books

- V.1 – Books – Fiction
- V.2 – Books for Children
- V.3 – Books – Health and General Care
- V.4 – Books – Training and Behavior
- V.5 – Gift Book
- V.6 – Poetry

- V.7 – Books – Other

VI. Non-Print Media

- VI.1 – Video, DVD, or TV Production
- VI.2 – Broadcast, Audio – Any Format

VII. Internet / Web Sites & Blogs

- VII.1 – Online Magazine, Newsletter
- VII.2 – Website
- VII.3 – Online Article – Health and General Care
- VII.4 – Online Article – Behavior and Training
- VII.5 – Online Article – Any Other Topic
- VII.6 – Online - Column
- VII.7 – Blog: Educational
- VII.8 – Blog: Entertainment

VIII. Graphic Arts

- VIII.1 – Black and White Photograph (single)
- VIII.2 – Black and White Photograph (series)
- VIII.3 – Color Photograph (single)
- VIII.4 – Color Photograph (series)
- VIII.5 – Cartoon
- VIII.6 – Illustration (single)
- VIII.7 – Illustrations (series)

YES! I want to be a 2011 contest judge! Count me in!

(Please type or print legibly.)

Please volunteer now to judge the 2011 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 2011 CWA Communications Contest.
- I am an Associate member and volunteer to assist the 2011 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: _____

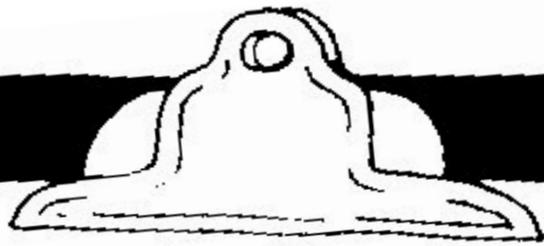


In order to continue receiving CWA mailings, please forward all changes of address or phone number to:

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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Deadlines!

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

2011 article deadlines for *Meow*:

Spring issue — April 3

Summer issue — June 3

Fall issue — September 3

2011 CWA Contest Entry Deadline:

**Must be postmarked by July 1st
details on page 27 & in the next *Meow*)**

"Mark" Your Calendars!

~ Special thanks to our generous *Meow* contributors ~
~ especially to conference photographer Barbara Stretton ~

Meow

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CAT WRITERS' ASSOCIATION
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Kitten Peaches: Honoring Her Namesake © KP

First Class