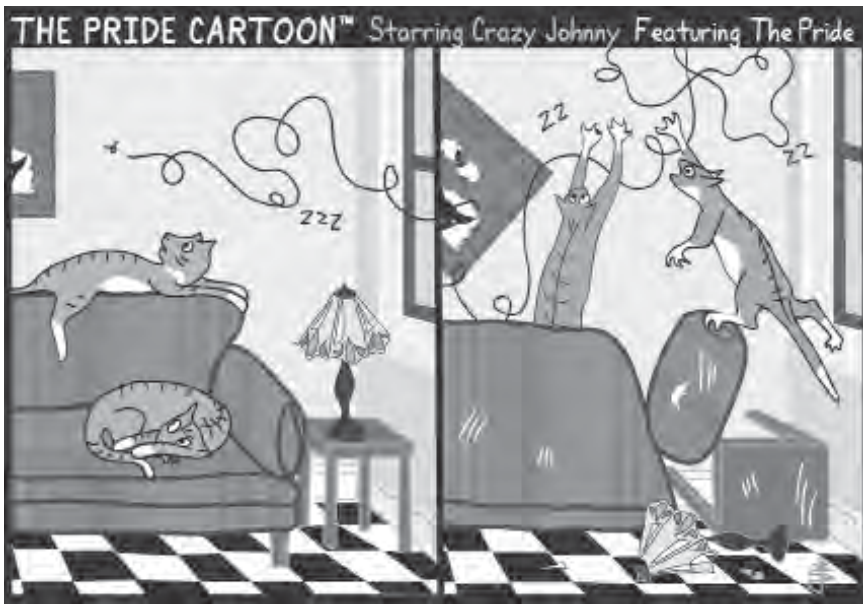


**The Cat Writers' Association, Inc.  
Nineteenth Annual Conference  
and  
Twentieth Anniversary Celebration**

**November 1-3, 2012**



**Renaissance Los Angeles Airport Hotel  
Los Angeles, CA**



"The Fly"

©Jane Denny

The Cat Writers' Association, Inc. (CWA) is an international association of professional communicators who provide to the general public and to specialized audiences news, information, education and works of literary and graphic art that help describe, dramatize, explain and illuminate the myriad aspects of felines, especially domestic cats, and their place in human life and culture.

CWA members promote the best interests of all cats through a variety of media and formats, including newspapers, magazines, radio, television, websites, blogs, public relations and publicity, photojournalism, illustration, fine arts, photography, video, podcasts, speech, technical writing and more. Members strive always to observe and promote the highest standard of ethics in the generation and publication of cat information in all genres and media.

Cover art "There's a Bug on My Nose!"

©Marci Kladnik

# **The Cat Writers' Association, Inc. Nineteenth Annual Conference & Twentieth Anniversary Celebration**

## **2012 Officers**

President: Susan M. Ewing

Vice President: Dusty Rainbolt, ACCBC

Secretary: Wendy Christensen

Treasurer: Allene Tartaglia

## **Council of Directors**

Class of 2012

Lyn T. Garson; Ramona Marek, MS Ed; Clea Simon

Class of 2013

Jane Brunt, DVM; Andrea Dorn; JaneA Kelley

Lifetime Member: Amy D. Shojai

## **2012 Conference Committee**

Susan Ewing & Dusty Rainbolt — Co-chairs

Sharon Melnyk — Registration

Nancy Marano — Communications contest chair

Nancy Peterson — Goodie bags

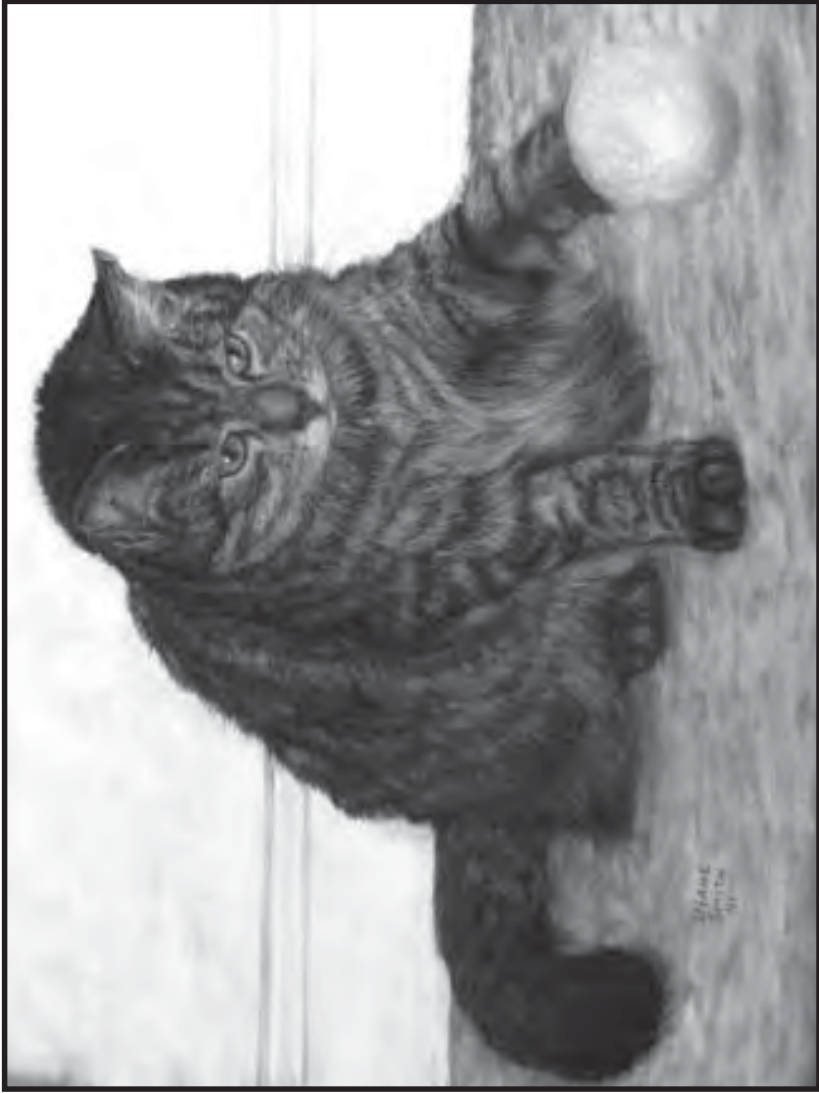
Anne Leighton & Paul Glassner — Publicity

Heiki Hagenguth — Editor/Agent meeting coordinator

Marci Kladnik — Conference & banquet programs

## **2012 Communications Contest Committee**

Nancy Marano (chair); Marion Lane; Anne Leighton; Stephanie Piro; Dusty Rainbolt; Fran Pennock Shaw; Sandra Toney



"She Shoots - She Scores!"

© Diane Smith

# Conference Highlights

## Thursday November 1

7:00 pm  
"Thursday Night Team" goodie bag & folder stuffing party (Wilshire A & B)

## Friday November 2

7:00 - 8:30 am  
Registration & Continental Breakfast (Foyer)

8:30 - 9:00 am  
Announcements (Renaissance I)

By Appointment  
Agent/Editor One-on-One Meetings (Renaissance II)

9:00 am —5:30 pm  
Seminars (see following pages)

6:30 - 10:00 pm  
"Meow-mories"  
Cat Writers' Association 20th Anniversary Celebration Reception/Dinner/Entertainment (Renaissance III)

## Saturday November 3

8:00 am  
Registration (Foyer)

8:00 - 9:30 am  
Breakfast & Membership Meeting (Renaissance III)

By Appointment  
Agent/Editor One-on-One Meetings (Atlantic)

9:40 am —12:20 pm  
Seminars (see following pages)

12:30 - 1:20 pm  
Lunch (Renaissance III)

1:30- 2:00 pm Break

2:00-4:00 pm  
Autograph Party (Foyer)

5:30-6:30 pm  
Reception (Renaissance III)

6:30-10:30 pm  
Cat Writers' Association Awards Banquet (Renaissance III)



“Jane Pawston”

©Dianna Diatz

# Editor/Agent One-on-Ones

## by appointment only

(**YOU** are responsible for keeping your assigned appointment(s), or for finding someone to exchange with if you have a scheduling problem. Appointment times will be posted outside of meeting rooms.)

### **LONNIE HULL DUPONT**

Executive editor Revell, a division of Baker Publishing Group

### **GEORGIA HUGHES**

Editorial director , New World Library

### **PAUL S. LEVINE**

Agent, Paul S. Levine Literary Agency

### **SUSAN LOGAN**

*Cat Fancy* editor, Bowtie

### **ELLEN PRICE**

Editor *Pet Sitter's WORLD*

### **ANNIE SHIRREFFS**

*Cat Fancy* managing editor, Bowtie

### **ERNIE SLONE**

*Dog Fancy* editor, Bowtie

### **ANASTASIA THRIFT**

CatChannel.com managing web editor, Bowtie



"Sugar Flossing"

©Rosie Sorenson



# Friday, November 2, 2012

**7:00-8:30**

**Registration & Continental Breakfast (Foyer)**

**8:30-9:00**

**Announcements (Renaissance I)**

**By Appointment Only**

**Editor/Agent One-on-Ones (Renaissance II)**

**9:00-9:50**

**Is Self-Publishing For You? 12 Things You Should Know About Self-Publishing Before Getting Involved— PATRICIA FRY (Renaissance I)**

Hundreds of thousands of people write books each year and most of them opt to (or are forced to) use self-publishing companies. What do these companies offer? Are they reliable? What can you expect from them? How do you choose the right one? How can you tell when you're being scammed? What is the author's responsibility when they sign with one of these companies? **Patricia Fry** will teach you how to be more proactive on behalf of your book project and avoid going with the wrong self-publishing company. She takes the mystery out of the self-publishing phenomenon and gives you the information and tools you need in order to make better choices.

**10 Things I've Learned from My Cats about Writing Children's Books—LEE WARDLAW (International A & B)**

Writing for Children, Tweens and Teens.

(Friday, November 2, 2012 cont.)

**10:00-10:50**

**WordPress 101— JANE A KELLEY (Renaissance I)**

You can make your website look like a million bucks—and maintain it yourself—with this powerful, free, and easy-to-use tool. **Jane A Kelley** provides a guided tour through the WordPress content management system and teaches key add-ons that will make your life as a webmaster a lot easier.

**Herding Cats: Taming Your Creative Brain—BARBARA STRETTON (International A & B)**

Do you find your brain running in circles so you can't sit down and get to work? Do you have so many ideas you can't get started on any of them? Are you trying to do so many things at once that you can't focus on what's important to you? Here's help! This hands-on workshop will teach you how to tame your creativity by understanding your unique thinking style.



©Stephanie Piro

(Friday, November 2, 2012 cont.)

**11:00-11:50**

**WordPress 102—JANEA KELLEY (Renaissance I)**

Webmaster **JaneA Kelley** leads you through more advanced WordPress applications.



**Writing for the  
Inspirational Market—  
LONNIE HULL DUPONT  
(International A & B)**

What does the inspirational market mean exactly and how can you write and sell to it – in particular when you write about cats? A book editor who has been in the inspirational books market for nearly thirty years shares thoughts and tips for publishing to this market.

©Stephanie Piro

**11:50-1:40**

**LUNCH—On your own**

(Friday, November 2, 2012 cont.)

**1:40-2:30**

**Fiction vs. Nonfiction Book Proposals and Queries: Are There Really Differences?—Web Editor Panel (International A & B)**

You only have one opportunity to make a good first impression. Learn what you need to know before you approach that editor or agent with the next *New York Times* Best Seller.

**GEORGIA HUGHES**, *editorial director of New World Library*

**PAUL S. LEVINE**, *lawyer and agent, Paul S. Levine Literary Agency*

**Recycling Ideas and Articles (an informal workshop)—  
SANDY ROBINS (Renaissance I)**

Learn how to make your work pay in this interactive, yet informal workshop. **Sandy Robins** gives you the know-how to take a topic, rewrite it and resell it to different markets.



©Stephanie Piro

(Friday, November 2, 2012 cont.)

**2:40-3:30**

**Blogging for Beginners and Beyond: How to Build It, Brand It, Bring In Readers, and Become a Better Writer—  
JANISS GARZA (Renaissance I)**

Are you an author or a freelance writer with a niche? A blog will bring you more readers, strengthen your authority - and make you a better writer! Don't worry, you do not have to be a techie. **Janiss Garza** shows you what you need to know: working with the most popular blogging platforms, creating an "editorial calendar," branding, bringing traffic to your blog and loads of handy tips!



©Stephanie Piro

**What Editors Wish You Knew—Editor Panel (International A & B)**

Writers make query and writing errors that drive editors crazy. Find out what mistakes raise the hackles on editors' backs and how to avoid them.

**SUSAN LOGAN (moderator)**, *Cat Fancy* editor

**JANE BRUNT, DVM**, executive director of *CATalyst Council*

**ELLEN PRICE**, editor of the *Pet Sitters WORLD*

**ANNIE B SHIRREFFS**, *Cat Fancy* managing editor

**ERNIE SLONE**, *Dog Fancy* Editor



"J" from *My Alphabet* by Carole Steven Bibisi

(Friday, November 2, 2012 cont.)

**3:40-4:30**

**Using Social Media to Maximize Your Publicity—Panel  
(International A & B)**

These experts will share their knowledge about the latest social networking tools, and ideas for increasing readership, advocating and awareness with your Facebook page. Explore ways pet writers can benefit from strategic posting, tools for measuring results, and ways to make your posts stand out.

**JANISS GARZA**, *award-winning author, photographer, editor, and speaker*

**JANE HARRELL**, *Petfinder.com's senior editor, manages editorial and social media marketing*

**JANEA KELLEY**, *webmaster and chief cat slave for Paws and Effect*

**ANASTASIA THRIFT**, *managing web editor, Bow Tie Press*

**Surefire Feature Writing—PAUL GLASSNER (Renaissance I)**

**Paul Glassner** provides a winning template (outline) you can easily apply to any feature story. He'll show how to do it (and how well it works). You'll have an opportunity to see plenty of good and bad examples.



©Bernadette E. Kazmarski

(Friday, November 2, 2012 cont.)

### 4:40-5:30

#### **Transitioning to Web Writing—Panel (International A & B)**

Learn about search engine optimization, keeping it short and simple and a wealth of other must-know Internet secrets.

**MELISSA KAUFFMAN**, website editorial director for BowTie websites.

**JANISS GARZA**, award-winning author, photographer, editor, and speaker

**ELLEN PRICE**, editor of the *Pet Sitters WORLD*

**ERNIE SLOANE**, editor of *Dog Fancy*

#### **Media Training: How To Succeed When You're on the Other Side of the Interview—KAREN "DOC" HALLIGAN (Renaissance I)**

A great interview requires knowledge and finesse. Animal Planet's **Karen "Doc" Halligan** provides suggestions when the tables are turned and the interviewer becomes the interviewee. Role playing and exercises help you practice the skills you learn in this session.

### 5:30-10:30

#### **Reception/Dinner/Entertainment: Meow-mories Cat Writers' Association 20th Anniversary Celebration (Renaissance III)**

For "kittens" and "nine-lifers" alike, celebrate the 20 years of CWA. The evening includes a Powerpoint® presentation of photos through the years, with commentary by founding president **Amy D. Shojai**, and special recognition of the charter and founding members who gave birth to the organization and nurtured its early growth.



**Saturday, November 3, 2012**

**8:00**

**Registration (Foyer)**

**8:00-9:30**

**Breakfast & Membership Meeting (Renaissance III)**

**By Appointment Only**

**Editor/Agent One-on-Ones (Atlantic)**



"Sibling Love"

©Cori Soloman

(Saturday, November 3, 2012 cont.)

**9:40-10:30**

**Kindle & Electronic Publishing—AMY SHOJAI (Renaissance I)**

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

**Saving Lives and Changing Perceptions: Cat Behavior & Clicker Training for Writers—MARILYN KRIEGER & BENGAL FRIEND (International A & B)**

Myths and legends have been woven about cats ever since people started sharing their world with them. One of the most persistent and potentially lethal beliefs is that unwanted cat behaviors cannot be changed. Because of this, cats are surrendered to shelters and often euthanized for fixable behaviors problems. It is up to us as communicators/cat-writers to educate people with **facts**—to change these archaic and false beliefs. Clicker training along with management, environmental changes and other force-free methods are very effective tools for changing behaviors and training cats. This talk will discuss how it works, focusing on a few unwanted behaviors. **Marilyn**

**Krieger and her Bengal Friend** will hold a live demonstration of clicker training. A list of cat behavior and clicker training resources will be provided to attendees.



©Bernadette E. Kazmarski

(Saturday, November 3, 2012 cont.)

**10:40-11:20**

**Going Multi-Media – Me-WOW!—ARDEN MOORE  
(International A & B)**

Communicating accurate feline info isn't restricted to the printed pages in magazines. Arden Moore will share ways to make a living by landing deals on websites, radio, TV and be hired as a media consultant and professional speaker. She will also demonstrate the value of teaming up with a spokescat – Zeki, a former abused stray who happily travels as Arden's pet partner. In this social media world, it's all about re-invention and Arden will show how to creatively think outside the (litter) box.

**11:30-12:20**

**The Making of Cat Daddy; When The Prescriptive and The  
Memoir Collide—JACKSON GALAXY (Renaissance I)**

**Jackson Galaxy**, star of Animal Planet's *My Cat From Hell*, shares the creative process behind his book, *Cat Daddy; What The World's Most Incurable Cat Taught Me About Life, Love & Coming Clean*. Reflecting on their 14-year journey together, Jackson makes a promise to Benny (who he semi-affectionately refers to as "the original cat from hell"), to tell the story of the immense behavioral, physical and, yes, spiritual challenges that pushed Jackson to more fully embrace cat behavior as a career path. In the process, however, Benny threw Jackson one last curveball; in order to tell the cat's story, Jackson had to tell his as well. Suddenly a book about applying Benny's lessons to all cats became an in-depth look at how two broken beings found, and eventually healed one another.

(Saturday, November 3, 2012 cont.)

**12:30-1:30**

Lunch (Renaissance III)

**1:30-2:00**

Break

**2:00-4:00**

Autograph Party (Foyer)

**5:30-6:30**

Reception (Renaissance III)

**6:30-10:30**

Cat Writers' Association Awards Banquet (Renaissance III)

Meow...Let's Purrrty!!



## Celebrity Speakers



**JACKSON GALAXY** is a cat behaviorist with more than fifteen years of experience—and the host of Animal Planet’s hit show *My Cat From Hell*. Galaxy specializes in helping individuals whose “out of control” cats are turning their lives and homes upside down.

**KAREN “DOC” HALLIGAN** is the author of the award-winning book *Doc Halligan’s What Every Pet Owner Should Know: Prescriptions for Happy, Healthy Cats and Dogs* (HarperCollins, 2007) and has authored numerous articles for *PARADE* magazine and other



media. She has appeared regularly on television on the *Doctors*, *Bonnie Hunt Show*, *Regis and Kelly*, the *Today Show*, the *Mike and Juliet Show*, *iVillage Live*, *Dr. Drew’s Lifechangers*, *The Insider*, *CBS Early Morning Show*, *Fox and Friends*, *Dog Tales*, *Animal Rescue 911* and *Extra TV*. On Animal Planet, she frequently appears on *Dogs 101*, *Cats 101* and *America’s Cutest Pets*.



"Edgar Allen Paw"

©Dianna Diatz

## Seminar Speakers



**LONNIE HULL DUPONT** is an acquisitions editor for the Revell division of Baker Publishing Group and the writer of many animal stories, some of them published under the pseudonym of Callie Smith Grant.

**PATRICIA FRY** is a career writer, speaker, teacher, editor and the author of 31 books. ([www.matilijapress.com](http://www.matilijapress.com)) She is also the executive director of SPAWN (Small Publishers, Artists and Writers Network) ([www.spawn.org](http://www.spawn.org))



**JANISS GARZA** is an award-winning author, photographer, editor, and speaker who began her career in 1986. She has earned Muse Medallions for her cat writing and photography, as has her blog, Sparkle the Designer Cat, written through the eyes of her Somali, Sparkle.

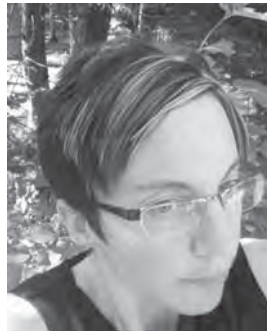
**PAUL GLASSNER** has been the editor of the San Francisco SPCA's magazine for the past 25 years. During this time he earned nearly 150 awards, including a bagful of Muse Medallions. He is the past editor of *Our Animals Magazine* and an award-winning photographer.





**JANE HARRELL**, Petfinder.com's senior editor, manages editorial and social media marketing for the world's largest pet website. Jane uses her lifelong passion for animal welfare to connect the public with the perfect adoptable pet, and give families the resources to make their adoptions last a lifetime.

**JANEA KELLEY** has been building websites since the late 1990s. She is the webmaster and chief cat slave for Paws and Effect, an advice site "by cats, for cats and their people," and the editor of Catster's Kitty News Network blog.



**MARILYN KRIEGER**, Certified Cat Behavior Consultant, owner of The Cat Coach, LLC® (the catcoach.com) solves cat behavior problems through on-site and phone consultations. Her award-winning book, *Naughty No More!* focuses on changing unwanted cat behaviors through environmental management and other force-free methods. Marilyn also writes the monthly behavior columns for

*Cat Fancy* and the weekly behavior columns for catchannel.com. She also is a member of the advisory board of NBC's Petside.com. In addition to consulting and writing, Marilyn teaches classes and lectures nationally on cat behavior and frequently guests on television and radio programs.



**ARDEN MOORE** is the founder of Four Legged Life.com and creator of National Dog Party Day. Arden is an animal behavior consultant, best-selling author, professional speaker and certified pet first aid instructor. Tune into her *Oh Behave! Show* on Pet Life Radio

and visit [www.fourleggedlife.com](http://www.fourleggedlife.com). ZEKI is her feline ambassador.



**SANDY ROBINS** is an award-winning multi-media pet lifestyle expert and author. Her work is very visible on many of the country's leading pet platforms such as MSNBC.com and TodayShow.com and AOL's Pawnation. She is a regular contributor and columnist in national publications such as *Dog Fancy*, *Modern Dog* and *Cat Fancy*.



©Lyn Garson



**AMY D. SHOJAI** is a Certified Animal Behavior Consultant, co-founder of Cat Writers' Association and author of 24 nonfiction pet books (including several "Kindle-ized" books).

**BARBARA STRETTON**, author of the Tori Trotter cat mystery series, is an instructor with the Institute of Children's Literature. She is trained in the Herrmann Brain Dominance Instrument (HBDI).



**LEE WARDLAW** is the award-winning author of close to 30 books for young readers, including *Won Ton - A Cat Tale Told in Haiku* (Holt), winner of the 2011 CWA Muse Medallion, the Fancy Feast/Purina "Love Story" Award, and the 2012 Lee Bennett Hopkins Children's Poetry Award.



## Panelists (in order of appearance)



**GEORGIA HUGHES** is editorial director at New World Library, where she acquires and edits nonfiction books in the areas of spirituality, animals, personal growth, and sustainable business. Acquisitions include *Dogs and the Women Who Love Them* by Allen and Linda Anderson, *Guardians of Being* by Eckhart Tolle and Patrick McDonnell, and *Learning Their Language* by Marta Anderson.



**PAUL S. LEVINE** “wears two hats”—he is a lawyer ([www.paulslevine.com](http://www.paulslevine.com)) and a literary agent ([www.paulslevinelit.com](http://www.paulslevinelit.com)).

Mr. Levine has practiced entertainment law for over 30 years, specializing in the representation of writers, producers, actors, directors, composers, musicians, artists, authors, photographers, galleries, publishers, developers, production companies and theatre companies in the fields of motion pictures, television, interactive multimedia, live stage, recorded music, concerts, the visual arts, publishing, and advertising. In 1998, Mr. Levine opened the **Paul S. Levine Literary Agency**, specializing in the representation of book authors and the sale of motion picture and television rights in and to books. Since starting his literary agency, Mr. Levine has sold over 100 adult, young adult, and children’s fiction and non-fiction books to at least 50 different publishers and has had many books developed as movies-for-television and feature films.



**SUSAN LOGAN** has been the editor of *Cat Fancy*, the world's most widely read cat care and lifestyle magazine, for the past eight years. A veteran in print journalism for more than 20 years, she has spent the past 11 devoted to pet and veterinary topics at BowTie Magazines based in Irvine, Calif.

Under her direction, *Cat Fancy* received six Muse Medallions from the Cat Writers' Association in the national magazine category and Logan was awarded the Muse Medallion twice for her monthly editorial column.

Logan received a Master's of Professional Writing from the University of Southern California. Her first cat book, *Cat Calls: Wonderful Stories and Practical Advice from a Veteran Cat Sitter*, was published in September 2011.

**JANE BRUNT, DVM** is a feline veterinarian and executive director of CATalyst Council, a communications platform providing evidence-based information to promote the value and care of cats in the US.



**ELLEN PRICE** has worked for Pet Sitters International for 13 years as editor of the *Pet Sitters WORLD* and as academic manager. PSI is the international membership association for more than 7,000 pet-sitting businesses. She previously worked in sports marketing for the *San Antonio Express News* and in the livestock publication industry.

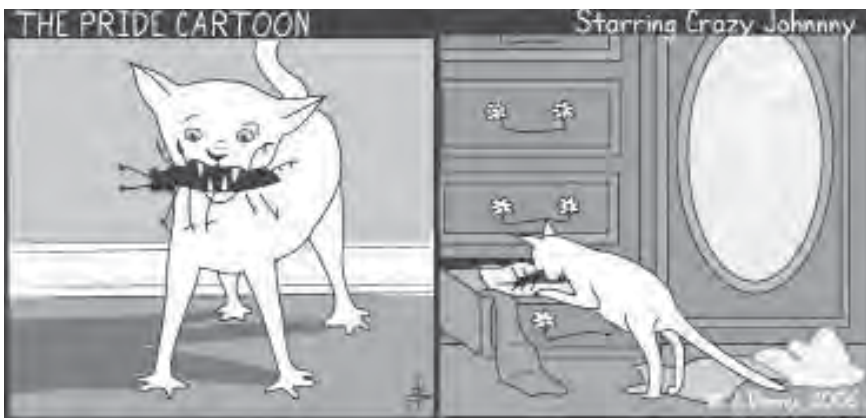


**ANNIE SHIRREFFS** has been the managing editor of *Cat Fancy* for five years. A lifelong cat lover, she has always had cats in her life and is currently the proud mom of mixed breeds Agatha, Alastair and Mathilda. She and her husband also care for a small group of stray cats who live in their neighborhood.



**ERNIE SLONE** is editor of *Dog Fancy*, and DogChannel.com and group editor of *Cat Fancy*, *Cats USA*, *Kittens USA*, and *Natural Cat* magazines, and CatChannel.com and *Dog World*, *Dogs in Review*, *Dogs USA*, *Puppies USA*, and *Natural Dog*.

He shares his many varied experiences in the world of dogs in his online column, Editor Off Leash. During a lifelong career in journalism, at top metropolitan newspapers and magazines, he has earned a number of awards and honors.



"Waterbug"

©Jane Denny



**ANASTASIA THRIFT** is the managing web editor at Bowtie Press. She has written about pets, their health and their habitats for 10 years. She has contributed to *CatChannel.com*, *Cat Fancy*, *BirdChannel.com*, *Bird Talk*, *Birds USA*, *Critters USA*, *Rabbits USA*, *Ferrets*, *Ferrets USA*, *Ponds Magazine*, *Ponds USA*, *Koi World* and *Water Garden News*. While

cats might be interested in eating most of the pets she's written about, she still likes cats the best. Before writing and editing pet articles, Anastasia worked in public relations in New York and San Francisco.

**MELISSA KAUFFMAN** is an avid writer and pet enthusiast, Melissa Kauffman is the website editorial director for BowTie's 16 pet, animal and agrarian websites.



©Bernadette E. Kazmarski

# Thanks to Our Sponsors!

**ASPCA®:** Friday night reception, Saturday lunch

**Central Garden & Pet Comfort Zone® with Feliway®:**  
Friday dinner, member bounty prize

**Cat Fanciers' Association:** general sponsor

**Dog Writers Association of America:** general sponsorship

**Hartz® Mountain Corporation:**  
Saturday breakfast, Saturday evening reception, general sponsor

**Morris Animal Foundation:** general sponsor

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# Special Awards

**Dr. Jim Richards/Cornell Feline Health Center  
Veterinary Issues Award**

**Fancy Feast® Love Story Award**

**Friskies® Writer of the Year Award**

**Hartz® Everyday Chewable Vitamin Award**

**Hartz® Glamour-Puss Award**

**Hartz® Milk Replacement for Kittens Award**

**Kari Winters Rescue/Rehabilitation Award**

**Ceva Animal Health Human-Animal Bond Award**

**Pro-Plan® Pedigreed Cats Award**

**Purina® Cat Chow® Nutrition Award**

**Purina® ONE® Health Award**

**Purina® Kitten Chow® Kitten Award**

**In the Spotlight Award**

**Sticky Paws® Training Award**

**Tidy Cats® Feline Behavior Award**

**World's Best® Cat Litter-ary Award**

**Kuykendall Image Award**

**Shojai Mentor Award**

**CWA President's Award**



## Contributing Artists & Photographers

**CAROLE STEVENS BIBISI** is an accomplished artist, author, illustrator, poet, musician, and teacher. She creates art and music in rainbow colors. She is mainly focusing on her art, writing, and illustrating children's books. *'Tails' of American Bronte* is her first book about her magical black cat Miss Bronte and they are advocates for black cat adoptions. Miss Bronte stars in her second book *My Alphabet* along with her troop of mice & ladybug friends. Carole is inspired by her love of animals and nature and her love of vibrant rainbow colors shows in everything she creates.

**JANE DENNY** is a sought-after graphic designer, illustrator and the art director at The Mad Hand Arts, Graphics & Design, in NYC. Taking much inspiration from her feline friends, she draws *The Pride*, the award-winning reality cat cartoon starring Crazy Johnny. She donates many hours designing for humane awareness campaigns, and a large portion of the proceeds from her popular designs on Zazzle.com ([zazzle.com/thewhitecatco](http://zazzle.com/thewhitecatco) and [zazzle.com/thepridecartoon](http://zazzle.com/thepridecartoon)) go to help feral cats in Queens.

**DIANNA DIATZ** specializes in creating whimsical illustrations of anthropomorphic cats, as well as humorous writing. She uses ink and watercolors to create her colorful cats.

Dianna's supurrvisors (sic) are her cats Oliver and Grayson. Of course, no picture is complete without cat hair to remove!

**LYN T. GARSON, CVT**, is a writer, photographer and Certified Veterinary Technician. Her photographs have been published in national veterinary journals, newsletters, brochures and presentations. She writes for *Our Companions News* including her column, *Technically Speaking*. Lyn is also the editor of the Lesbian and Gay Veterinary Medical Association's international newsletter.

**BERNADETTE KAZMARSKI** works under the supervision of her cats in her home office and studio, painting animals and nature, writing fiction and poetry and providing commercial print, web and logo design and illustrations as well as photographing events, and writing articles and publicity. She is the publisher of *The Creative Cat* ([www.thecreativecat.net](http://www.thecreativecat.net)) featuring daily photos and sketches of her cats and daily articles on diverse entertaining and educational topics concerning cats, pets, nature and artwork.

**MARCI KLADNIK** sits on the Board of Catalyst for Cats, Inc. in Santa Barbara, CA, a feral TNR group. She writes an award-winning bi-weekly cat column for two local papers and at [www.catalystforcats.org](http://www.catalystforcats.org). While she doesn't profess to being an artist, she does have a BA in the subject and loves to do an occasional sketch. She prefers to write about felines, including a children's book series she's working on about her Scottie and the feral kittens the dog helps foster.

**KAREN KUYKENDALL** was a charter member of Cat Writers' Association. In the Winter 1994 issue of *Meow*, the CWA newsletter, President Amy Shojai asked members to submit designs for the organization's new contest award medallion. The next issue published four designs (three of them submitted by Karen Kuykendall), which were put up for a membership vote. Karen's winning image still adorns our coveted Muse Medallions. CWA awarded the first Muse to Karen Kuykendall at the banquet November 1994. She also received two years free dues.

*Meow* recorded the historic event as follows: "I've been drawing cats since 1965," says the Casa Grande, Arizona-based artist. Her cat photos and paintings have been widely published and she is also active with the Valley Humane Society."

At the time Karen was the proud owner of 15 cats. Her name still appeared in the 1998 membership directory, although she died that year after a long battle with cancer. The KUYKENDALL IMAGE AWARD was established and first presented at the 1998 Awards Banquet to honor Karen and her work.

Karen Kuykendall was well-known for her popular, Tarot of the Cat People.

**STEPHANIE PIRO** is a cartoonist, illustrator and designer. She is one of King Features' team of women cartoonists, "Six Chix". (She is the Saturday Chick.) She also does the cartoon panel "Fair Game". Her work appears all over the place from books to greeting cards plus she designs gift items for her company Strip T's and her Cafepress Shop. In her spare time (HA!) she works in two libraries and gardens. Visit her website: [www.stephaniepiro.com](http://www.stephaniepiro.com) and her blog: <http://stephanie-piro.blogspot.com/> Contact her at: [stephaniepiro@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniepiro@gmail.com)

**DIANE M. SMITH, CVT**, is a Certified Veterinary Technician with a strong interest in feline health. A member since 1993 and former secretary of the Cat Writers' Association, she has earned five CWA Muse

Medallions and several special awards for writing on feline nutrition and health, including the President's Best of the Best Award in 1997. In 2011, she won the Kuykendall Image Award. Diane is also an artist with experience in oils, acrylics and pastels, most recently concentrating on commissioned pastel portraits of animals. She especially enjoys painting her favorite subjects, cats.

**CORI SOLOMON'S** interest in animals began in the 1980s with the purchase of two Salukis. Having been an art major but putting her creative side on hold, Cori's Salukis encouraged her reconnection with art and introduced her to showing and lure coursing. With the death of Cori's sister in 2001, she discovered, her breakthrough in artistic expression and experimentation was through animals. This event also brought cats into Cori's life, as she chose to care for her sister's two. Prospering as an award-winning animal artist, friends suggested that her experiences drawing, breeding, training and her overall love for animals was a natural for writing about them. Following those suggestions, Cori began sharing her knowledge through the written word. Cori donates a percentage from art sales to various animal charities and her writing has informed the public on the vital role dogs and cats play in our lives.

**ROSIE SORENSON** is a recovering psychotherapist and health care administrator, now a writer. Her work has appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Baltimore Sun*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *San Jose Mercury News*, the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, *Cats Center Stage*, the *Contra Costa Times*, the *Progressive Populist*, and others. In addition, she won honorable mention in the Erma Bombeck Writing Competition for 2007. She is also a monthly humor columnist for the *Foolish Times* ([www.foolishtimes.net](http://www.foolishtimes.net)). Her essays have been broadcast on KQED-FM, the popular San Francisco NPR affiliate, in its "Perspectives" series. In 2006 she won its Listener Favorite Award.

**BETSY STOWE** is a freelance writer/photographer and a founding member of CWA. She was the editor of the CWA newsletter MEOW for 13 years and is author of the award-winning book of poems and photos, *CALICO TALES AND OTHERS*.





"As a matter of fact, I AM the Queen"

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