

Dog Writers Association of America



# ruff DRAFTS

*Spring 2014*

inside ...

complete coverage of the

2013

*Writing  
Contest  
Awards  
Banquet*

New Member bios

New Member news

cover photo: Susan Willett





## Officers

Ida W. Estep, Esq., President  
PO Box 295, Bunn, NC 27508  
252-478-6088, [iwestep@earthlink.net](mailto:iwestep@earthlink.net)

Susan Ewing, Vice President  
66 Adams Street, Jamestown, NY 14701  
716-484-6155, [dogwriter@windstream.net](mailto:dogwriter@windstream.net)

Pat Santi, Secretary  
173 Union Road, Coatesville, PA 19320  
610-384-2436, [rhydownen@aol.com](mailto:rhydownen@aol.com)

Marsha M. Pugh, Treasurer  
P.O. Box 787, Hughesville, MD 20637  
301-274-3435, [mmpugh@crosslink.net](mailto:mmpugh@crosslink.net)

Carmen Battaglia, PhD, Past President  
335 Westford Glen, Roswell, GA 30075  
770-998-3679, [cbattaglia@mindspring.com](mailto:cbattaglia@mindspring.com)

## Board of Governors

### ~Class of 2015~

Bryna Comsky  
565 Illinois Boulevard  
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169  
847-885-8395, [bcomsky@aol.com](mailto:bcomsky@aol.com)

Robert H. McKowen  
297 West Main Street, Leola, PA 17540  
717-656-9300

### ~Class of 2016~

Patricia Cruz  
15 Shiloh Court, Coram, NY 11727  
631-928-1517, [lacruz928@optonline.net](mailto:lacruz928@optonline.net)

Martin Deeley  
15549 Vinola Drive, Montverde, FL 34756  
407-469-5583, [cdawgs@mindspring.com](mailto:cdawgs@mindspring.com)

Joel Gavriale-Gold, PhD  
205 West 89th Street, Office 1A  
New York, New York 10024  
[Dr.JoelGold@gmail.com](mailto:Dr.JoelGold@gmail.com)

Gail C. Parker  
4241 Cottman Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19135  
[rebelslair@aol.com](mailto:rebelslair@aol.com)



# President's column

## Think Globally, Act Locally

by Ida Estep, Esq.

Think globally, act locally is usually defined as urging folks to act in their own communities while keeping in mind the health of the entire planet.

But I have been thinking of it recently in terms of animal welfare and begun to realize how easy it is to believe that, by thinking and acting globally, you have made a difference. And how hard it really is to act locally, especially in the face of local resistance.

I don't mean that it is not a good thing to sign petitions to save animals a world away and donate money to those seemingly endless groups with the appropriate music and terribly depressing ads. I have signed many of those petitions and sent money to those animal welfare groups.

But one thing I have discovered is that it is a lot harder to really act locally. I don't mean just donating to local rescues or even rescuing abandoned or shelter animals but actually trying to work on local attitudes to improve the treatment of local animals.

My first taste of this came when I moved to my rural southern county and visited the animal control facility. With a combination of threats (yes, what you are doing here REALLY is illegal), cajoling, public relations, and lobbying, we did get a new shelter. Along the way, though, I was constantly challenged. Ranging from the ever popular, if a little crude, "I know where you live and I know where your animals are" to the slightly less intense, "Why are you trying to help animals when so many elderly (children, poor, battered women, fill in the blank) need help more?"

Eventually, as everybody decided the new facility was not only a good thing but, somehow, their idea all along, the ruckus died down.

Recently, I experienced another teachable moment - I guess I am a slow learner - when I was asked by the Animal

Control Director to chair the Administrative Appellate Board to hear the appeal of a dog owner whose dogs had been designated dangerous after being twice accused of killing chickens and then killing a cat. The witness to all three of these events was the chicken-owning neighbor who, prior to the Board meeting, trapped the chicken-killing dogs only to find they not only belonged to somebody else but also looked nothing like the originally accused dogs.

So the seven Board members were left with the cat killing, likewise witnessed by this same neighbor. The cat itself was owned by a VICP (Very Important County Person) who was totally outraged when we found unanimously that there was insufficient evidence that the dogs had done the deed.

As it happened, the witness neighbor refused to come to the Appellate Board meeting, concerned, we all assumed, with being confronted with his previous misidentification of the dogs. The other witnesses who did come made clear their animus towards the dog owner, who did not share race or religion with the accusers, but could not provide any real or reliable evidence.

The VICP brought so many witnesses that the Board meeting went long into the night and I, as chair, ended up being the individual left to report the results to the Animal Control Director; the local police chief, a bit of a shouter and table pounder; and the VICP, who, clearly unused to things not going his way, called the whole meeting a travesty and a joke, among other things. Seeing a young child have a tantrum is not attractive; believe me, watching a 50+-year-old man have one is much more unpleasant.

Happily, the Animal Control Director, who had appointed the Board, decided upon the high road that the result showed his

good sense in choosing a truly independent Board, together with a somewhat belated recognition that the evidence connecting the dogs with the cat killing really wasn't there.

Now the VICP is attempting to sue the County, claiming that I was biased and had a prior relationship with the dog owner. None of which is true and all of which conveniently ignores the reality that all seven of the Board members reached the same conclusion, on the evidence, before we even started conferring.

The county attorney is challenging the suit on the basis of standing - the VICP was never a party to the suit - and, of course, he has another remedy: suing the dog owner in civil court for the value of the cat. The result remains to be seen.

All in all, I can't help thinking it would have been easier to decline the honor of chairing the Board and just dash off a check to one of those charities with the well-produced, tear-jerking ads.

## in Memoriam

### Judith A. (Jan) Siragusa

Jan was a member of the DWAA since 1997. She was a retired Senior Research Scientist for Johnson & Johnson and wrote many articles on dog training in years past.

*I would like to thank those who sent cards and e-mails regarding my Mother's passing. It has had been a long four years for her to be bedridden. I thank God she held on till I came home from the banquet and died the next night.*

-Pat Santi

### Marion Sue Lane

Marion Sue Lane, 69, died Monday March 3, 2014 at the Bassett Medical Center in Cooperstown. She was born September 16, 1944 daughter of the late Burton and Lillian Reilly Lane. Sue and her siblings, Jane and Larry, were raised in the Lane Family Homestead in Mt. Pleasant. She was an Onteora High School alumna Class of '61, and earned a Bachelor of English Literature from Harpur College (now SUNY Binghamton). She worked at the Rockefeller Foundation for 10 years as an executive assistant to the foundation's president. In 1981, she found her way to the American Kennel Club where she began to write articles for their monthly publication. From 1986-90, she was the Editor of the AKC Gazette.



Her final positions were as special projects editor and author for the National Programs Office of the ASPCA. For 30 years, Marion had been a writer/editor specializing in dogs. She was a member of the board of governors of the Dog Writers Association of America, the Cat Writers Association, and regular columnist in Dog Fancy. In addition to dozens of essays and feature articles, Marion had authored five nonfiction books on dogs. She relocated in 2005 to Cobleskill, surrounded by working farms and wildlife. Animals and writing were her passion. Surviving are her husband, Lawrence White, whom she married in 2001; a daughter, Mia Adams; a sister, Jane Lowenstein, of Lake Katrine; a sister-in-law, Sharon Lane, of Albany; two nephews: Adam and Noah; several cousins; many close friends; as well as her three cats: Charlie, Ginger and LeRoy; and chicken, Aunt Dolores. She is predeceased by her brother, Lawrence, in 2006; five dogs: Lillie'em, Puff, Little Nell, Big Red and Natasha; numerous cats, including Murphy, Black Jack, Brandon, Abigail; rabbits: Amstel, Heineken and Hildegarde; chickens: Aunt Hazel and Aunt Mary. The family suggests memorial contributions may be made to the Schoharie Valley Animal Shelter, Howes Cave, NY 12092. You may share a condolence or light a candle on the Memorial Obituary Page at [www.gormleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.gormleyfuneralhome.com)

## DWAA 2014 Committees

### Banquet

Pat Santi, Chair  
Marsha Pugh, Co-chair

### Budget and Finance

Ida Estep, Chair  
Carmen Battaglia, Martin Deeley  
Susan Ewing, Marsha Pugh, Pat Santi

### Bylaws

Ida Estep, Chair  
Alan Alford, Carmen Battaglia  
Patricia Cruz, Pat Santi

### 2014 Contest

Elaine Waldorf Gewirtz, Chair  
Officers and Board

### Hall of Fame

Patricia Cruz, Chair  
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### Liaison with Cat Writers Association

Susan Ewing

### Membership

Marsha Pugh, Chair  
Bryna Comsky, Susan Ewing, Pat Santi

### Public Relations

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### ruff DRAFTS

Vicky Clarke, Editor

### Webmaster

Paul Costa  
[www.dwaa.org](http://www.dwaa.org)

### ruff DRAFTS

send all material to  
Vicky Clarke, editor  
1138 Mohea Road, Unionville, NV 89418  
775-538-7331, [uziduzit@wildblue.net](mailto:uziduzit@wildblue.net)

### issue deadlines~

Spring, March 1  
Summer, June 1  
Fall, September 1  
Winter, December 1

The editor reserves the right to refuse and/or edit material, and is not responsible for errors in difficult to read copy. Every attempt will be made to publish information accurately. Submission implies right to publish all or in part. Unsigned or misleading material is not accepted. Material published is the opinion of the author and does not imply endorsement by the editor or DWAA. Neither editor nor DWAA assumes liability for information contained herein or typographical errors. Reproduction of photos and editorial is forbidden without permission.

## Treasurer's Report

January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Opening balance . . . . .              | 30,276.19  |
| <i>Income</i>                          |            |
| Applications . . . . .                 | 1,875.00   |
| Awards Banquet . . . . .               | 5,405.00   |
| Awards Banquet sponsors . . . . .      | 2,500.00   |
| Contest entry fees. . . . .            | 7,002.50   |
| Dues . . . . .                         | 13,364.63  |
| Program advertising . . . . .          | 55.00      |
| Repayment (moved to savings) . . . . . | -1,527.84  |
| Special Award sponsor . . . . .        | 7,000.00   |
| Total income . . . . .                 | 35,674.29  |
| <i>Expenses</i>                        |            |
| Archive storage . . . . .              | 300.00     |
| Bank charge . . . . .                  | 152.04     |
| Banquet expenses . . . . .             | 14,757.47  |
| Computer services . . . . .            | 2,086.76   |
| Contest Chair stipend . . . . .        | 2,500.00   |
| Contest expenses . . . . .             | 3,367.24   |
| Design . . . . .                       | 2,800.00   |
| Eukanuba booth. . . . .                | 366.73     |
| Donation Cat Writers . . . . .         | 1,000.00   |
| Gratuity (to hotel staff) . . . . .    | 100.00     |
| Insurance . . . . .                    | 1,086.00   |
| Lapel pins. . . . .                    | 462.00     |
| Postage . . . . .                      | 499.65     |
| Printing . . . . .                     | 1,964.95   |
| Special Award winners . . . . .        | 8,655.00   |
| Tax: State of Massachusetts . . . . .  | 15.00      |
| Total expenses . . . . .               | -40,112.84 |
| Ending balance . . . . .               | 25,837.64  |
| Savings account. . . . .               | 3,814.54   |
| Total . . . . .                        | 29,652.18  |

# Secretary's page

## Minutes of the DWAA Annual Meeting

February 10, 2014

Hotel Pennsylvania, New York, NY

In the absence of the President and Vice President, a motion was made to have the Past President take the chair. Moved by Pat Santi, seconded by Joel Gavriale-Gold. M/S/P.

Meeting opened by Dr. Carmen Battaglia at 10:45 a.m.

Present: Marsha Pugh, Dr. Gavriale-Gold, Bryna Comsky, Pat Santi, Dr. Carmen Battaglia, Dr. Mary Burch, Ranny Green, Elaine Gewirtz, John Kleppner.

Minutes of last meeting approved. Moved by Joel seconded by Marsha. M/S/P.

Treasurer's report: \$25,837.64 in checking and \$3814.54 in savings.

Secretary reported that Pat Cruz and Gail Parker ran uncontested for the two board seats. Secretary cast one vote for the two ladies.

Discussion about the contest and the prices we should charge for the regular and special awards. Joel suggested \$45.00 and then discussion began. Dr. Battaglia thought that the contest chair and the treasurer should figure out the cost of the Maxwells and postage and certificates and come up with an increase in price.

Mention was made of Board Members missing meetings and Pat made a suggestion that missing three meetings in a row was reason for dismissal. Bryna seconded the motion. M/S/P.

New applications were read and approved.

It was discussed that we should take part in digital library for all contest items. Then we let members look up records for free and charge non-members a fee. It could be accessed by title, subject or author.

Another discussion by Elaine of electronic contest entering and then four copies for Special Board at another meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Marsha and seconded by Joel at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Santi

### WANTED: new member bios and photos!

In your newsletter, we would like to profile the DWAA members and their work in the business of dogs. As a new member, you are invited to submit an approximate 200-word summary of your background and work in the field of dogs along with a photo of yourself.

If you have anything else that you would like to contribute to ruff DRAFTS, please let me know of your idea. We do not have a budget to pay for articles, photos and artwork, so any contribution would have to be pro bono. And please remember that submissions are always welcome for our cover!

Looking forward to hearing from you - thanks!

-editor

## Welcome, new members!

Morgan Eve Humphrey

A/Jr Member

580 13th Street NW, Naples, FL 34120

299-207-6205, morganh25@gmail.com

Sponsors: Elaine Gewirtz and Maggie Payne

Paris Permenter

P/Freelance

P.O. Box 1389, Cedar Park, TX 78630

512-250-1599, editors@dogtipper.com

Sponsors: Carol Bryant and Tracie Hotchner

Sherry Bennett Warshauer

P/Freelance

518 Venice Lane, Sarasota, FL 34242

203-517-8117, mash919@gmail.com

Sponsors: Ida Estep and Pat Santi

Laura Coffey

P/Today.com

8831 38th Avenue SW, Seattle, WA 98126

206-687-7474, laura.coffey@nbcuni.com

Sponsors: Elaine Gewirtz and Pat Santi

Susan Holmes, PhD

P/Freelance

3404 E Jasper Lane, Fayetteville, AR 72764

479-225-6175, dogmysteries@gmail.com

Sponsors: Tracy Walker and Amy Shojai

Mary Lynn Machado

P/Grafiste

3010 Johnston Avenue, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

310-245-4055, 1marylynn@gmail.com

Sponsors: Arlie Alford and Eleanor Alford

Julie Campbell

P/Freelance

35941 CR 25, Enton, CO 80615

937-474-1928, jacampbell4@gmail.com

Sponsors: Devin O'Branagain and Pat Santi

Susan C. Willett

A/Freelance

1871 Mountain Top Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

908-963-3144, susan@lifewithdogsandcats.com

Sponsors: Kristen von Kreisler and Su Ewing

Turid Rugaas

P/Freelance

Box 109, Geithus, Norway 3360

47-32780987, turidrug@frisurf.no

Sponsors: Terry Ryan and Charlene Woodward

# meet our New Members

## J. A. (Julie) Campbell

Julie has been many things over the last few years, from college student, to bookstore clerk, and an over-the-road trucker; but through it all she's been a writer. When she's not out riding her horse, she can usually be found sitting in front of her computer. Her animals inspire much of her fiction: from her horse-centric Travelers series to her vampire and ghost hunting dog stories, she finds ways to incorporate the personalities she knows and loves into her fiction. She's even found ways to involve her new sheep herding hobby into



the latest vampire hunting dog novel. She lives in Colorado with her three cats, her vampire hunting Border Collie, Kira, her Arabian mare, Triska, and her Irish Sailor. She is the author of many vampire and ghost hunting dog stories, the young adult fantasy series, Tales of the Travelers, and the young adult urban fantasy series The Clanless. She is also the editor of Steampunk Trails, an old west steampunk fiction magazine. She's a member of the Horror Writers Association and the Dog Writers Association of America. Find out more: [www.writerjacampbell.com](http://www.writerjacampbell.com)

## Susan Holmes, Ph.D.

Fayetteville, AR, [dogmysteries@gmail.com](mailto:dogmysteries@gmail.com)

Susan penned her first story - about bears - at the age of four. She soon expanded her childhood writing to include dogs, drawing inspiration from the likes of Balto, Beautiful Joe, and Old Yeller.

Writing was the one constant in her life through military service and life abroad. Back in the States, her undergraduate studies included a focus on writing and her graduate work in communications and education built on that foundation.

Today, she is a professional writer, editor, college professor, and consultant. Her work appears in peer-reviewed journals and military publications, as well as print and digital media. The author and



editor of two non-fiction books, she explores the world of dogs through her website <http://dogmysteries.com> and writes regional mysteries set in a boarding kennel.

Her third book, Deadly Ties, is the first in the Waterside Kennels mystery series and was inspired by the joyful adventures of 18 years with her beloved spaniel, Alix. While writing the series she's joined Search and Rescue exercises, ventured through caves, forests and fields, and into dog parks, vet clinics, and kennels. She works closely with dog trainers, kennel owners, and veterinarians to create an environment that dog lovers are sure to recognize and appreciate.

## Morgan Eve Humphrey

I began showing corgis when I was nine, and became the junior editor for the Sunshine State PWC Club Newsletter not long after that. Recently, by which I mean for the past couple years, my family has also commenced training and showing Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers. My family has always had a deep love for dogs, although we did not show until I had found interest in the sport of conformation. Consequently, I have developed into a bona fide dog lover and, therefore, most, if not all, of my writing features my sweet little canines.

As my knowledge of the dog world expanded, so did my dog-related activities. While our first Toller was gaining Grand Championship, our second was jumping new lengths, leaping 19'5" in the newly-made sport of dock-diving. I began agility training, and my sister became involved in conformation, rally, and dock-diving. We started to consider ourselves well educated on all breeds.

Outside of my dog interests (though there isn't much), I am a sophomore in high school and play JV girls' lacrosse. I take all fun advanced classes and am in many clubs, from Academic Team to a club that raises money to support women's rights.



## Kristin von Kreisler

Kristin was born on October 4, the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. All her life she has loved and rescued animals, including many dogs. She's also written magazine articles and books about dogs.



Her most recent book, An Unexpected Grace, is a novel about a woman and a golden retriever helping each other recover from violence and abuse. [editor's note: see coverage in the "Member News" section]

Kristin lives on an island in Washington, and from her desk she watches ospreys, otters, and seals. She lost both her beloved dogs in one month last year, and her husband has been too sad to get another. But they plan to start looking for a rescue in June.

published all over the world. More books happened, and more DVDs, but what I do most is educate dog trainers in many countries, carrying out more studies in different fields, and run a small publishing company in my own country.

I live on a small farm with my dog and cats, have a daughter and two granddaughters.



## Paris Permenter

Paris is a longtime freelance writer and author. With her husband, John Bigley, Paris has authored 32 pet and travel books including DogTipper's Texas with Dogs (Open Road Guides, distributed by Simon and Schuster), The Healthy Hound Cookbook (Adams Media), and Barkonomics: Tips for Frugal Fidos (Riviera Books), which was excerpted in multiple issues of Cesar's Way magazine.

Paris is the co-publisher of the award-winning DogTipper.com as well as CatTipper.com. Also a columnist for pet360.com and FIDO Friendly magazine, Paris is the co-host of the weekly "Dog Travel Experts" radio show on Radio Pet Lady Network.

Using her background in economics and business, Paris helps dog lovers learn how to live a healthy, happy life with their pets while saving money. From budget-friendly travel to healthy food choices to pet products that provide good value, Paris shows pet parents that they can provide their pets with a great life while keeping their budget on a short leash.



Paris is a strong advocate of pet adoption and mixed breed dogs. Paris and John live in central Texas with their two mixed breed dogs, Irie and Tiki, and four cats.

## Turid Rugaas

[www.turid-rugaas.no](http://www.turid-rugaas.no); [turidrug@frisurf.no](mailto:turidrug@frisurf.no)

I am born and bred in Norway where I have lived all my life, but internationally travel the whole world in my job. I have worked with and for dogs for close to 50 years, and seen many changes happening. I had many various jobs: journalist, gardener, carpenter and others, till I went completely fulltime dog training. I am also an educated horse riding instructor from the military. I took some exams in psychology and economy at the university, which has been a helpful background; especially the knowledge of making statistics, which I have used extensively when doing studies. My passion is studies of dog behaviour, and that led me to the two-year long study of calming signals that ended in the book and DVD being now

## Sherry Bennett Warshauer

Sherry's volunteer work with Guiding Eyes for the Blind [GEB], Patterson, NY, has spanned over 15 years. She has raised four dogs for them, created numerous programs, and has written three books about their extraordinary dogs (with all of her profits donated to GEB).

Everyday Heroes, with photographs by renowned photographer, Mary Bloom, presents true stories about the remarkable dedication and heroism of dogs trained to guide, serve and rescue. Winner of the Maxwell Award and Book of the Month Club pick for a year.

Tails of the Heart (stories for the dog lover in all of us) includes true stories about guide dogs; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF); state police patrol and detection dogs who work daily for our safety and protection; therapy dogs who help families in pain; release dogs who bring love to their families; and stories about raisers and their pups, honoring the loving relationship between people and these exceptional dogs. Several of the stories relate to 9/11. Tails of the Heart celebrates these dog teams.

For The Love of Kinsey. Kim is blind. She leads a full and active life with her loving husband, Butch, a grown daughter and son-in-law, two granddaughters, her guide dog Sal, and her rescued-pet dog, Benny. It was October of '07. Kim's first guide dog, Angus, her guide



and constant companion for 11 years, was gravely ill and would have to be put down. A thousand miles away, Kinsey was completing her final month of professional guide dog training. Kinsey became Kim's guide in December of '07. This is Kim's story, a collection of her e-mails to me, in which she tells of her happy, funny, and poignant experiences with Kinsey, an extraordinary dog that we raised.

Making Good Decisions is the theme of Sherry's therapy dog group, of which she is Director.

# member News!

## Hit by a Flying Wolf: True Tales of Rescue, Rehabilitation and Real Life with Dogs and Wolves

by Nicole Wilde  
(Phantom Publishing,  
2014 www.nicolewilde.com)

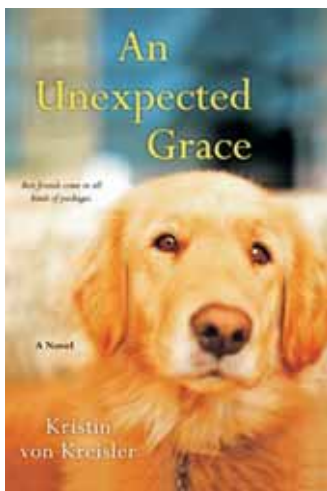
Have you ever had to save a wolf from a rattlesnake? Or rehabilitate a dog who eats furniture and major appliances? Have you chased a stray wolf down suburban streets in the thick of a winter storm? Nicole Wilde has done all of those things and more. As a professional dog trainer and canine behavior specialist, executive director of a wolf rescue, and long-time Dog Mom, Nicole not only shares wildly fascinating stories of rescuing, training, and living with dogs and wolves, but also offers heartfelt insight into how she solved problems and repaired relationships. You'll meet Sierra, who will stalk a dog a mile away; Bodhi, whose idea of a good time is to dismantle a mini-fridge; and Phantom, Heyoka and Sequoia, the rescued wolves who find their way into Nicole's heart and home, even as they turn her life upside down. Rescue and rehabilitation is rewarding, but the road isn't always a smooth one. So buckle up and hang on - you're in for laughter, tears, and one howl of a ride!

To read the Introduction and view the Table of Contents, please visit [www.nicolewilde.com](http://www.nicolewilde.com).



## An Unexpected Grace

by Kristin von Kreisler



Kristin's most recent book is a novel about a woman and a golden retriever helping each other recover from violence and abuse. Jeffrey Masson, New York Times bestselling author of Dogs Never Lie About Love, said, "I was captivated from page one, and I learned a great deal from this heartwarming, thrilling book." Kristin's memoir, For Bea, is about her beagle, who came from a medical lab and influenced Kristin to become an animal

writer. "Bea is unforgettable," said Mary Tyler Moore; and Betty White called the book "a lovely story." Her books have been translated into ten languages, and her first book, The Compassion of Animals, which contains many dog stories, was a "Book of the Month Club" selection.

## from Denise Fleck ~

*I'm still wagging my tail over having won the Dog Writer's Award this past week in the Children's Book Category for Don't Judge a Book by its Cover - a book that shares the joy of senior pets and black-coated dogs - however, I'm now pleased to announce my next book for children and all family members . . .*

## Rescue Critters' Pet First Aid for Kids

*Empowers the next generation to help their best friends*

What would YOU do if your curious pup scored big rummaging through the garbage but then got sick? How would YOU help Fluffy if she was choking on a fur ball or got stung by a bee?

Veterinarians are the experts, but pet lovers can help their dog or cat when an injury or illness occurs, and reacting quickly can make a big difference in the pet's recovery. According to the American Animal Hospital Association, one out of four additional pets could be saved if one pet first aid technique was applied prior to getting veterinary care, and First Responders don't always have to be adults . . . kids too can play a vital role in saving their furry best friend when disaster strikes!

"Although children don't always listen to their parents, parents do listen to their kids," says Animal Care Instructor Denise Fleck on why she collaborated with Rescue Critters® on their new book Pet First Aid for Kids. "By instilling in the younger generation a passion for animals, it is my hope they will inspire their parents to learn along with them."

The book outlines basic steps, along with detailed photographs, and materials needed BEFORE you get your pet to the veterinarian - how to handle choking, what to do for a bee sting, how to administer rescue breathing and CPR. "With an emphasis on safety first, it is a quick reference to teach kids age 8 and older what to do should their dog or cat need help," explains co-author Sandrina Lee. "Hopefully it will bring families together learning to care for their four-legged members."

"I learned a lot from reading this book and now know what to do in an emergency with my pets and also how to keep them safe at home," says 7th grader Lyndsey Scoper, while 9th grader Alexis Yannuzzi explains, "It's stressful worrying about your pets. I have three dogs and a cat, but I no longer have to worry. I recommend that pet owners of all ages keep this book on hand. I know I will!"

Veterinarian Harriet Howe comments, "I found Pet First Aid for Kids accurate and easy to follow. It's a great book for kids and young adults . . . I know I would have found it intriguing at that age," and that is just what the authors are hoping all readers will





discover as well since pets too are part of the family and sometimes need a helping hand.

Author Denise Fleck was raised by a Great Dane and has spent her life loving and working around animals. A long-time rescue volunteer, she has shared pet first-aid & CPR skills in magazines on TV and radio. Twice weekly she instills her passion in high school students through an after-school animal care program she teaches as a joint venture between her city's school district and animal shelter. In 2013, Fleck released her first in a series of illustrated children's story books sharing the joy of senior dogs entitled, Don't Judge a Book by its Cover. Learn more at [www.sunnydogink.com](http://www.sunnydogink.com)

Co-author and publisher Sandrina Lee is the owner of Thales & Co., LLC, the parent company of Rescue Critters® which was established in 1998. With the realization that there were no simulators available for teaching pet first aid, the company went on to develop animal manikins catering to the veterinary profession and now includes products suited to address the needs of schools, the military, as well as Search & Rescue groups. Visit [www.rescuecritters.com](http://www.rescuecritters.com) for more information.

Pet First Aid for Kids is available at Amazon, Rescue Critters and Sunny-dog Ink along with other select sites and retail stores.

### Star Crossed

by Bette Isacoff, visit [Bettelsacoff.com](http://Bettelsacoff.com)

Order at [HeadwindsPublishing.com](http://HeadwindsPublishing.com) and at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)

Bette's affiliation with DWAA began when, due to her hard work and determination, the Finnish Spitz breed achieved AKC recognition in the late 1980s. Her feature story about the breed in the January 1988 AKC Gazette was a first runner-up in that year's DWAA writing contest. She has been a member of the organization ever since.

Bette has been a high school English teacher, juvenile probation officer, and computer programmer. She is also a registered nurse. Bette bred, trained, and exhibited Champion, Group, and Best in Specialty Show-winning Finnish Spitz under the Kitsuna (reg.) prefix. Her writing has appeared in the AKC Gazette (where she was also a breed columnist from 1988-1991), Dog Fancy, Golden Ages magazine, and The National Observer. She was the creator and twenty year editor of The Finnish Line (monthly newsletter of the Finnish Spitz Club of America). Isacoff obtained her BA and MFA in Creative Writing from Albertus Magnus College. She and her husband reside in The Berkshires.

While Star Crossed does not focus on her career with dogs, her family commitment to dogs over the years is mentioned. (Her next book, expected in 2015, will be a collection of short stories, devoted to dogs.)

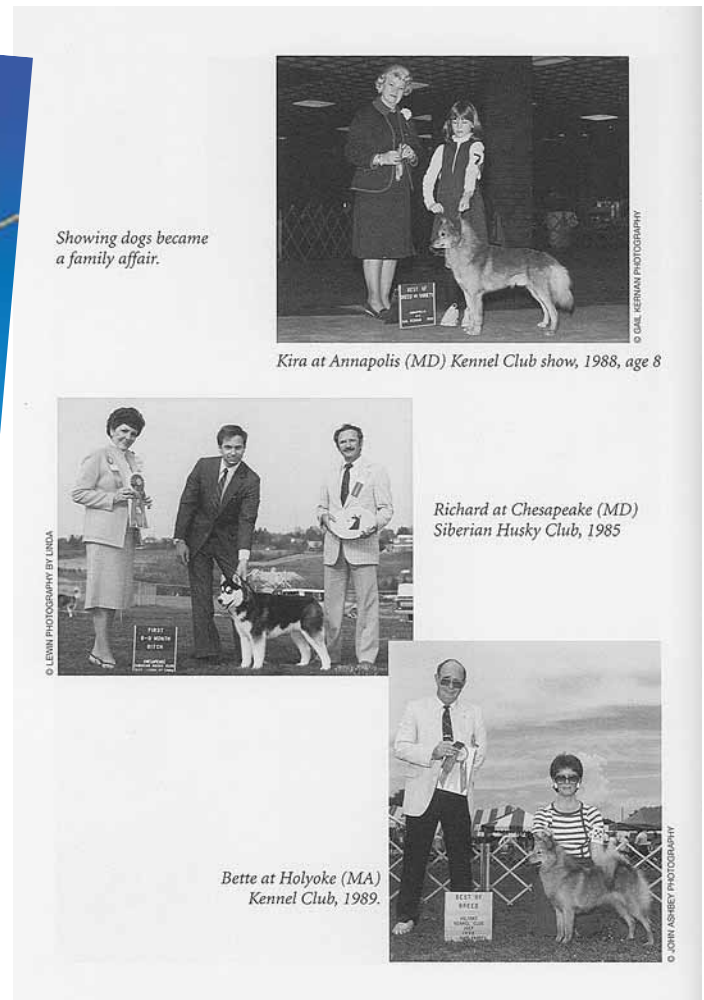
Set in New England in the late 60s, Star Crossed is the poignant, funny, and inspirational chronicle of an interfaith courtship at a time when interfaith love was exotic and forbidden.

When Bette met Richard in 1968, he was a 17-year-old Jewish

kid. She, at 21, was a Catholic college senior doing a practice-teaching assignment at his high school. Seven weeks later, they were engaged. To say their two-year courtship was ill-received is an understatement. After graduation, Bette did not have the option of getting her own apartment. Instead she returned home, to parents determined to break up the unlikely couple. She was denied all contact with Richard. He was told to find a Jewish girl. The harder their families tried to pull them apart, the tighter they clung together.

This couple faced not one impediment to marriage, but four: religion, age (at a developmental stage when it is significant), education level, and the tenor of the times - a culture in which Jews and Catholics rarely married "outside." Throw into the mix outraged parents, scornful siblings, snickering friends, legal obstacles, uncooperative clergy . . . and still, they persevered. With secret post office boxes, clandestine meetings, and Bette's extended family, who conspired with Richard against their own blood kin, the curious relationship was nurtured.

In the last decade, 45% of all U.S. marriages have been between people of different faiths. Today there are a number of books about the technicalities of blending an interfaith family. Yet this is the only book written from the perspective of a blissful, hugely successful forty-three year marriage that has withstood all the naysayers and skeptics. Cross-generational as well as cross-cultural, Star Crossed speaks to young men and women considering or entering an interfaith relationship; it challenges the old order espoused by their parents; and it is a nostalgic look back to a simpler time.





DWAA

# 2013 Writing Competition

photos by Chet Jezierski

# Awards Banquet

## News from the Chair, Elaine Gewirtz

*It's a wrap! Another DWAA Competition closes a chapter. The list of finalists and winning entries appear on our website, and the stack of shiny new Maxwell medallions now decorate their recipients' shelves.*

*Thanks to everyone who entered this year's competition. We received more than 500 submissions - all delivering the important message that dogs play an important role in our lives.*

*Hats off to the judges who had to make the tough choices, too. More than one judge reported that choosing a top contender proved challenging, as many entries deserved to win a Maxwell. If you weren't lucky enough to take home our coveted prize this time, there's always next year's contest.*

*It also helps to think about the real reason why you penned your piece. Somewhere there's a dog owner who sits down in a comfy chair with a cup of coffee and your column, article, book, or artwork, and takes your message to heart. This person looks down at her dog, smiles, and gives him a pet or two. Maybe your reader will try your new training method, take her dog to the vet, or make her own treats. Boom. Your creation just added to the human-canine connection, and that's the best Maxwell of all.*

*As far as connections go, as a first-time contest chair I enjoyed getting to know our members, new contributors, and taking on the challenge. Organizing more than 500 entries often felt like herding cats, but ultimately the task pretty much came together. Special thanks to Ida Estep, Pat Santi, and Marsha Pugh for their expertise and support when questions arose.*

*Yes, I've agreed to serve as contest chair again. New contest rules and categories will appear in the coming months on the website and in an upcoming issue of ruff DRAFTS, but here's the best news: THE CONTEST IS GOING DIGITAL! With the exception of books and audio-visual materials, you'll have the option to enter the contest online or by mail. Think of all the trees and paper clips we'll save.*

*With this in mind for the 2014 contest, here is . . .*

### ***The Top 11 things a DWAA Contest Chair does not want to hear from an entrant or a judge***

11. "I was going to send you the third page of my article, but my dog ate it."
10. "Check? What check? I was supposed to send a check with my entry?"
9. "Sometimes, late at night, my computer talks to me."
8. "Do you really expect me to read all three of these entries?"
7. "Whaddya mean by choosing the best one?"
6. "Is it okay if I copied portions of my book from Wikipedia?"
5. "Did you receive the poem I wrote on sticky notes?"
4. "How much do you pay judges anyway?"
3. "Would you believe that I need another year to turn in my results?"
2. "Why can't you accept 8-track tapes?"
1. "About 10 years ago I wrote an article on a chalkboard about a stuffed dog, can I send in the board?"

## Regular category winners

### A. Newspapers

1. Article – Health and General Care  
Fran Pennock Shaw, "Just More of Me to Love?" ([Intelligencer Journal/Lancaster New Era](#))
2. Article – Behavior and Training  
Peggy Swager, "Truth About Stubborn Dogs" ([The Gazette Telegraph](#))
3. Article – Rescue  
Ardra L. Cole, "ElderDog Canada Helps People & Dogs Grow Old Together" ([Dogs, Dogs, Dogs](#))
4. Article – Any Other Topic  
Jen Reeder, "Calling All Super Dogs" ([Durango Telegraph](#))
5. Column  
Amy Shojai, "P'Etiquette" ([Herald Democrat](#))

### B. Magazines

6. All Breed  
[AKC Family Dog](#)
7. Single/Related Breeds  
[Celebrating Greyhounds](#)
8. Special Interest or Annual  
[APDT](#)
9. Article – Health and General Care  
Lisa Waddle, "Sadie's Seizures" ([AKC Family Dog](#))
10. Article – Behavior and Training  
Mara Bovsun, "She Caught a Chuting Star" ([AKC Family Dog](#))
11. Article – Rescue  
Penny Leigh, "From Alley to Rally" ([AKC Family Dog](#))
12. Article – Breed  
Eve Adamson, "Short-to-Tall-Tale" ([Puppies USA](#))
13. Article – Any Other Topic  
Christy Caballero, "Racing Through Autumn" ([Celebrating Greyhounds](#))
14. Regular Column or Series  
Debra M. Eldredge, DVM, "Health Matters" ([Dogs in Review](#))

### C. Canine or All-Animal Newspapers or Newsletters

15. Canine or All-Animal Newspapers or Newsletters  
[Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue](#)
16. Health or Care Article  
Susan Ewing, "Study Looks at Tick Diseases" ([Purina Pro Club](#))

Cocker Spaniel Update)

17. Article on Any Other Topic  
Peggy Swager, "Timid & Undersocialized Dogs" (Mile High Dog)

#### **D. Internet, Websites or Blogs**

18. Website  
AKC Canine Health Foundation

19. Online Magazine, Newsletter  
AKC Gazette

20. Online Article – Health and General Care  
Debra M. Eldredge, DVM, "Horse Hoof Trimmings" (Equimed)

21. Online Article – Behavior and Training  
Barbara Scanlan, "Canicross: The New 'Secret Sauce' of Agility Training?" (USDAA.com)

22. Online Article – Rescue  
Laura Coffey, "Xena" (TODAY.com)

23. Online Article - Any Other Topic  
Ranny Green, "When it Comes to Healing, Newton's Therapy Dogs Have No Age Limits" (www.SeattleKennelClub.org)

24. Online – Column  
Marianne Sullivan, "Collies" (AKC Gazette)

25. Blog – Educational  
Stanley Coren, "Canine Corner"  
(www.psychologytoday.com/blog/canine-com.)

26. Blog – Entertainment  
Nancy Tanner, "She Has Never Apologized for Her Choices, Ever"  
(www.nancytanner.com)

#### **E. Graphics**

27. Single Photo (as published)  
Christine Kurker, "Waiting for Spring" (The Corgi Cryer)

28. Series Photos (as published)  
Chet Jezierski, "Inspiring" (Dog News)

29. Single Illustration or Painting  
Pamela Dennis Hall, "Quigley" (The Royal Spaniels)

30. Series of Illustrations or Paintings  
Bud Boccone, "Dog People" (AKC Gazette)

31. Posters, Calendars, Brochures and Pamphlets  
Roy Wilson, Barbara Garnett-Wilson, Nancy Kinnear, The Cavalier King Charles Spaniel in Fine Art Calendar 2013 (Cascade Publications)

#### **F. Humor, Poetry, Short Fiction, Opinions/Editorials**

32. Humorous Art or Writing in Any Medium

Amy Shojai, "Dogs vs. Cats: 10 Reasons Puppies Are Better"  
(www.About.com)

33. Poetry  
Lee Netzler, "Stuttering Along" (The Bagpiper)

34. Short Fiction  
Morgan Eve Humphrey, "The Tale of the Fluffy Corgi" (Sunshine Themes)

35. Opinions/Editorials in Any Medium  
Elizabeth Jarrell, "My Brilliant Brat" (Aussie Times)

#### **G. Other Media**

36. Video, DVD, or TV Broadcasts  
Haqihana, "Nosework-Search Games" (Dogwise Publishing)

37. Radio, Podcast, or Other Audio  
Sarah Montagus & Lisa Peterson, "AKC Pick of the Litter Program #15 June-July 2013" (American Kennel Club)

#### **H. Club Publications (National, Regional or Local)**

38. Magazine format  
Cindy Read, Editor, The Corgi Cryer (Mayflower Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club)

39. Newsletter format  
Carolyn Grande, Editor, The Scottie Scuttlebutt

40. Feature  
Teresa West-Holmes, "Collar Entrapment, Strangulation and CPR Techniques" (The Ridgeback)

41. Regular Column or Series  
Florence Scarinci, "A Best Friend in Deed, and Indeed; Parts 1 & 2" (The Corgi Cryer)

42. Special Publications  
Sue & John Vahaly and Kathie Charpie, Pembroke Welsh Corgis in America 2012 PWCCA Handbook (Pembroke Welsh Corgi Publications of America, Inc.)

#### **I. Books**

43. Single Breed  
Jim Cheskawich, The Story of Rex of White Way, The Blizzard King (Rex The Blizzard King Stories, LLC)

44. Related Breeds or All Breeds (no entries)

45. Health and General Care  
M. Christine Zink, DVM, Canine Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation (Wiley)

46. Training and Behavior  
Denise Fenzi & Deborah Jones, Dog Sports Skills Book 1 (Fenzi Dog Sports Academy)

47. General Interest or Reference  
Edward M. Gilbert, Jr. and Patricia H. Gilbert, Encyclopedia of K-9 Terminology (Dogwise Publishing)

48. Fiction, Mystery or Humor  
Sheila Webster Boneham, Drop Dead on Recall (Midnight Ink)

49. Children's  
Denise Fleck, Don't Judge A Book By Its Cover (Dog Ear Publishing)

50. Soft-cover Guides on any Dog-Related Subject  
Peggy Swager, How to Start a Home-Based Dog-Training Business (Globe Pequot Press)

51. Human/Animal Bond  
Bryan Cummins, Our Debt to the Dog (Carolina Academic Press)

## Special category winners

The Adoptshelter.com Adopt a Homeless Dog Award: Carlotta Cooper, The Dog Adoption Bible, www.DogFoodInsider.com (Rogers Concepts LLC)

AKC Car Microcipping Awareness Award sponsored by The AKC Companion Animal Recovery: Sharon Pflaumer, "Take a Bite Out of Dognapping," Dog News

AKC Club Publication Excellence Award: Teresa West-Holmes, "Collar Entrapment, Strangulation and CPR Techniques," The Ridgeback

AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Public Service Award: Leila Grandemange, "The Best Gift You Will Ever Give Your Dog," The Royal Spaniels Magazine

AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy and Canine Good Citizen Award: Joanne Anderson, Pets, Pets Newspaper Column, "Princess Gabby, CGC," Massapequa Post

Angel on a Leash Award: Cheryl Zappala, "The Day the World Cried," The Saint Fancier

Dogwise Best Book Award: Bryan Cummins author: "Our Debt To The Dog", Carolina Academic Press

DWAA Distinguished Service Award: Elaine Waldorf Gewirtz

DWAA Friends of Rescue Award: Dr. Rise VanFleet, "The Empathic Dog Trainer," The APDT Chronicle of the Dog

DWAA Junior Writer Award: Morgan Eve Humphrey, "The Tale of the Fluffy Corgi," Sunshine Themes

Eukanuba Canine Health Award: Sasha Foster, Canine Cross Training, (Dogwise Publishing)

Merial Human-Animal Bond Award: Rhoda Lerman, Elsa Was

Born a Dog, I Was Born a Human . . . Things Have Changed, (Blue Heaven Publishing)

Morris Animal Foundation Advances in Canine Veterinary Medicine Award: Eve Adamson, "Dachshund DNA Samples Help Advance Understanding About Hemangiosarcoma," Purina ProClub Dachshund Update

North Shore Animal League America Award: Kim Campbell Thornton, "The Low-Down on Spay/Neuter," PUPPIES USA

Planet Dog Foundation Sit. Speak. Act. Canine Service Award: LuAnn Stuver Rogers, "Dogs In Court," The Royal Dispatch

PSI First-Canine Award: Michael Faulkner, "Fitness," Dog News

Pro Plan President's Award: Bryan Cummins, Our Debt to the Dog (Carolina Academic Press)

Purina President's Award: Ardrea L. Cole, Author, "Elder Dog Canada Helps People and Dogs," Dog, Dogs, Dogs

*Thank you, sponsors!*

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AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy and Canine Good Citizen Award  
Angel on a Leash Award  
Dogwise Best Book Award  
DWAA Distinguished Service Award  
DWAA Friends of Rescue Award  
DWAA Junior Writer Award  
Eukanuba Canine Health Award  
Merial Human-Animal Bond Award  
Morris Animal Foundation Advances in Canine Veterinary Medicine Award  
North Shore Animal League America Award  
Planet Dog Foundation Sit. Speak. Act. Canine Service Award  
PSI First-Canine Award  
Pro Plan President's Award  
Purina President's Award

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# DWAA Writing Competition Banquet featured in LA Times

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-dog-writers-20140221,0,7371102,full.story#axzz2txkXCVm7>

I was very honored last week to receive the Maxwell Medallion in the category of "Newspapers: Any Other Topic" for an article I wrote for the Durango Telegraph titled "Calling All Super Dogs." It was a profile of the local therapy dog teams in my hometown of Durango, Colorado. I was so inspired by the people I interviewed that I decided to train and certify my rescued Lab mix, Rio, as a therapy dog. Now we visit hospital patients together as a therapy dog team. I love sharing him with people who could use an emotional boost! This makes the award particularly meaningful.

Attached is a photo of Rio showing how proud he is of his mom. —Jen Reeder



## 2014 Greyden Press book competition has begun!

Enter your manuscripts now in the Greyden Press 2014 Book Competition! It's free. Over \$12,000 in prizes. Deadline for fiction, young adult-fiction, and non-fiction entries is midnight June 2, 2014. Deadline for children's book entries is midnight July 1, 2014. Winners will be announced October 1, 2014. Visit <http://www.greydenpressauthors.com/competition/>



# Dues renewal notice



Payment of dues, \$40

Dues payments are due by March 1

DWAA annual membership runs from March 1- February 28

Please fill out the required fields below, cut along the dotted line and mail this form to Pat Santi, DWAA Secretary.

Name .....

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(Please use your current e-mail address. It is used for all DWAA online services.)

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Choose one:

Professional (paid)       Associate (not paid)

To insure complete information, are you:

a freelancer      or, employed by: .....

Make check payable in U.S. funds to DWAA and send along with this page to

Pat Santi, DWAA Secretary, 173 Union Road, Coatesville, PA 19320

Questions: rhydowen@aol.com

**NOTE: Your dues must be paid to be included in the 2014 DWAA membership roster**



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# Roxie

by Janice Biniok



*She says these books are really good, but I think they're rather bland . . .*