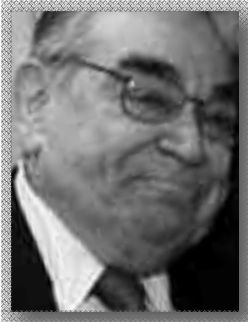


April 2008



Is that a smile on
Mordecai's face?
Look inside and we'll let you be the judge!



IN THIS ISSUE

Spotlighting our Members' Talents

Ruff Drafts: The Voice of DWAA™

DOG WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.
FOUNDED 1935



After hearing "You should put a saddle on that thing!" once too often, Vanna Condux of Chapel Hill, NC, finally did put one on. The lovely deerhound in question is Cu Liath Iowa Fair Fen, RN, called Iowa. Iowa is a lovely girl who is obviously eager to please. Vanna, who took the photo of Iowa-as-pony, said "I can't tell you how many times I have heard someone or another say that."

President's Column
Chris Walkowicz

"If drafted, I will not run; if nominated, I will not accept; if elected, I will not serve." William Tecumseh Sherman, (who also said "Grant stood by me when I was crazy and I stood by him when he was drunk and now we stand by each other always.")

I'm not drunk but I might be crazy. When I accepted the office of Vice President once again, under duress and 45 minutes of arm twisting, I agreed with the firm statement that it would only be for a two-year term and that under no circumstances would I step up to President again. Been there/done that/have the t-shirt.

Well, here I am again. I have taken the helm to steer DWAA out of the maelstrom and to lead us into calmer waters until someone takes over with enthusiasm. Because of my other commitments, I am depending heavily on the other officers and Board (and the membership) to make this 10-month term a breeze rather than a hurricane.

We have a great deal to be proud of, with advances made under every presidency, including our most recent, Amy Fernandez, who reworked our wonderful Ruff Drafts, edited by our Newsletter Goddess, Phyllis DeGioia, and graphics by Kim Townsend; our Forums, <http://www.dwaa.org/forum/>, and website, <http://www.dwaa.org/>, Webmaster Kim Townsend and moderated by Diane Schuller and yours truly; our DWAA-owned group list, http://dwaa.org/mailman/listinfo/dwaa-group_dwaa.org, maintained by Stephanie Smith and moderated by Anne Page and Kim Thornton.

We have a fantastic banquet, planned and carried out by Pat Santi, our Secretary, along with our annual contest, now chaired by our boomerang gal, Liz Palika. We have had a long-time association with CWA co-sponsoring seminars, and we have hopes for more seminars from Chief Planner Charlotte Reed.

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, do not hesitate to contact me or one of the officers or Board. What you have to say will be duly considered. It may not always be doable or applicable, but it will be discussed. Operating as a democratic organization, our Board and Officers each have one vote, and sometimes things we personally feel are good ideas don't pass. But they will be considered.

People who remember my columns from the not so long past know my fondness for quotes. So here is another one:

"Never say never, for if you live long enough, chances are you will not be able to abide by its restrictions. Never is a long, undependable time, and life is too full of rich possibilities to have restrictions placed upon it." Gloria Swanson, US actress (1899 - 1983)

And so we proceed, onward and upward. (I think someone else said that.)



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Class of 2010 - David Frei
Class of 2009 - Patricia Cruz & Dr. Carmen Battaglia

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For roster updates, or if you did not receive your newsletter or roster, PLEASE NOTIFY Pat Santi.

Dog Camps Focus of New Children's Book

"Get in the car," Christa commands. The black and tan Dachshund plants all four paws on the ground. "Daniel, I mean it—in the car now," Christa repeats. Daniel begs not to.

And so begins the first scene in the new children's picture, *Daniel: Dog Camp Champ!* written by Tewksbury author Loren Spiotta-DiMare.

A work of fiction, the story is based on real summer camps for pet owners and their dogs. "I wrote an article about Camp Gone ToThe Dogs in Vermont about a decade ago," Spiotta-DiMare says. "All the dogs and owners had a wonderful time but I know kids can be reluctant about attending camp, I remember being very homesick myself, so I thought writing a children's book with a character they could relate to would make the subject fun and interesting."

In the book, Daniel, a shy long-haired Dachshund, doesn't want to go to camp. But his owner thinks it will build his confidence and enrolls him in Camp Happy Tails. While there, Daniel slowly starts to make new friends and tries different canine sports. Some he enjoys and some just aren't for him. But he excels at Agility (a race around an obstacle

Daniel: Dog Camp Champ!



Story by Loren Spiotta-DiMare

Design by Jeanne Balsam

course) and eventually becomes the Dog Camp Champ. And yes, you guessed it, by the end of the story Daniel doesn't want to go home.

"While I was working on the manuscript I imagined an illustrated book with a smooth-coated red Dachshund but then my neighbors adopted an adorable, longhaired black and tan Doxie and I knew he would be perfect. In fact, Toby the model for Daniel, is so adorable, I decided to use photo-illustrations instead of paintings. Most

of the models in the book belong to friends and neighbors. My own Irish Setter and Welsh Springer, Woody and Rory also have cameo appearances—couldn't resist," the author says with a laugh.

The canine models leap from the pages due to the design talents of animal artist, Jeanne Balsam of Milford, NJ (www.jeannebalsam.com). Balsam is uniquely gifted in that she has both the talent to actually draw and photograph animals as well as beautifully present them, (and many other subjects), through her skills as a Graphic Designer. This project allowed Balsam the opportunity to artistically design and enhance each of the dogs' photos and at the same time, create the look and feel of the book around the images and text.

Build a Better Mousetrap...or Poop Picker-upper

Craig Dadoly recently created a 2-minute video to educate people on the health issues of not picking up after their dogs. He got tired of walking in his neighborhood and seeing piles of dog poop that dog owners left behind. He realized it is a problem in many communities (it's the old "a few rotten apples spoil the barrel for the responsible dog owners). Using his background in e-learning development, his brief educational and entertaining video addresses the messy problem and he thought that DWAA would appreciate the educational tool.

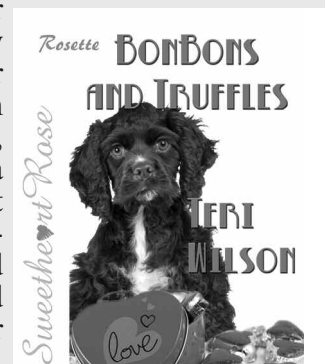
The link to The Poop Detective is at www.thepoopdetective.com.

He Solves The Dirtiest Crimes



New E-book

Teri Wilson has a new e-book called *Bonbons & Truffles*. It is a short story e-book about a lonely chocolatier named Melody Sweet, her adorable English Cocker Spaniel, Bonbon, and a mysterious secret admirer. It is available as a download from The Wild Rose Press. For more information, please visit Teri's website at: www.teriwilson.net.



(Editor's note: is there any canine literary hero or heroine that is not adorable? Of course not!)

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE MARCH 1, OF EACH YEAR.

\$40.00 FOR PROFESSIONAL AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS.

We are trying a new way of collecting dues this year by giving everyone until June 1, 2008 to pay. If dues are not paid by that date you will not receive a roster or any more newsletters. Dues are not based on the month a member joins DWAA. We only excuse those members who joined in November and December for applications for the following year. Unless you joined in November or December of 2007, your 2008 dues are due March 1st.

According to the bylaws, dues are due and payable March 1, each year. U.S. Funds Only

Please send the following information with your dues:

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____

Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Fax _____

Association or Freelance _____

e-mail _____

Send to:

DWAA
Pat Santi, Secretary
173 Union Road
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610-384-2436
e-mail: rhydowen@aol.com

If you do not wish to remain a member, please advise us.

If your dues are going to be late, please advise the secretary when they will be paid.

Roster Update

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Lisa Peterson
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The official DWAA list is at http://dwaa.org/mailman/listinfo/dwaa-group_dwaa.org. It's simple to sign up and join our conversations! To post a message to all the list members, all you do is send email to dwaa-group@dwaa.org. This list is a fast way to network with your DWAA colleagues, ask questions about writing or dogs, and learn as well as share tips that make a dog writer's life easier and more profitable.

When signing up for our Forums at <http://www.dwaa.org/forum> be sure to use your real name as your user-name. Characters and spaces are permitted -- *Dr. Jane Doe* is acceptable, but *Dr_Jane-Doe* is not acceptable. The idea is to present your name to the search engines in a format most often used by Internet users.

Is a Dog Called a "Woof" in Every Language?

By Anne Hart

The word for cat sounds the same regardless of the language family--Uralic, Indo European, Hamitic/Nubian, Semitic, Basque, Chinese....they all call it a cat or a puss.

How did you pick your cat's name--or your dog's name?

Here's the history of cat names. Look at the origin in ancient times for the word 'cat.' We often call a cat 'puss' as in the children's story titled Puss 'N Boots. The word 'puss' used for 'cat' comes from the ancient Egyptian word 'pasht,' meaning cat. It was pronounced in Egypt, Persia, and all over the ancient Middle East as "Pishk" east of the Nile and "Pasht" west of the Nile. And today the word survives as Pishik in Yiddish and modern Persian (Farsi). It comes from a proto language that once included Indo-European and also Afro-Asiatic (Hamitic/Semitic). We often call a cat 'puss' or pussy cat. Guess how old that word for cat or cat's names is?

Pasht, for cat, later evolved to Bast and then to Bastet, another cat-headed goddess in Egypt. In ancient Iraq and Persia (Iran) the word for cat was Pishik. In Arabic cat is kitt and khatte. See how the word for cat, held in high esteem and worshipped in the ancient middle east, is pronounced the same--either cat or pus (pishk) in Indo European, Semitic languages, Hamitic, Basque, and other languages. Points to a proto-language spoken 10,000 years ago in which everybody had the same word for 'cat.' Chai is the Chinese word for 'cat'. So the word for cat could be used in languages that existed before Indo-European or Hamitic-Semitic language groups were around. Even the non-Indo European Basque word 'catua' for cat or the Hamitic Nubian word for cat, 'katiska' seems to put emphasis on the sound of 'cat.'

Here's the word for cat in other languages

Persian: Pushak (Pishik)
Old Yiddish: Pishika (teenage female cat)
Pisha (teenage male cat)
Afghan: Pishak
Kurdish: Pishig
Lithuanian: Puize
Irish: Pus (Puss)
Sanskrit: Puccha, Pukha, Puccha
Arabic: Kitt, Khatte
Armenian: Kitta, Ketah

Basque: Catua
Catalonian: Gat
Spanish: Gato
Portuguese: Gato
Italian: Gatto
Cornish: Kath
Welsh: Cath, Kath
Syriac: Kato, Katto
Turkish: Kati
Swedish and Norwegian: Katt
German: Katze
Old Yiddish: Katz (Cohen-Tzaddik)
Dutch: Kat
French: Chat
Burgundian: Chai
Picardian: Ca, Cahe
Polish: Kot
Russian: Kots
Chinese: Chai (Note same pronunciation, but unrelated languages, or is there an ancient common ancestor?)
Nubian: Katiska, Kadiska
Ancient Egyptian: Pasht, also Bast, later goddess, Bastet.

Are there universal words for dog, wolf, tiger, bear, or lion also? What about for 'pets' in general?

How come there are different words for dog than for cat around the world? A wolf sounds like "woof" for dog. But a lupu is different than a wolf or volk.

I put up my Howling Wolf Blog for writers--a creativity enhancement and personality preference assessment on my blog at:

<http://creativityquestionnaires.blogspot.com/>

Anyone can download and take this test. It also appears in my paperback book titled 30+ Brain-Exercising Creative Coach Businesses to Open: How to Use Writing, Music, Drama & Art Therapy Techniques for Healing, Anne Hart, M.A. ASJA Press, Jan. 2007. (Reprinted with permission.)

Freelance writer, Anne Hart is a member of DWAA and is the author of 80+ books listed at <http://annehart.tripod.com> and numerous novels and plays. Some of her novels feature dogs as characters and two feature cats.

Shojai to Blog at Petside

Amy Shojai will be the new "cat blogger" for the www.petside.com website. She plans to discuss dogs in once in a while, too, so check it out.

Additionally, starting sometime in February Shojai began a new Internet radio half-hour weekly podcast called "Pet Peeves" on www.petliferadio.com. The program covers cat and dog topics and emphasizes the issues that really make folks howl and growl. Shojai hopes DWAA-ers will listen, visit, send questions, be guests on the radio show, suggest ideas, etc.

Night Visitor - by Lee Netzler

Encapsulated in the staked and zippered tent prepared to spend the night, we lay content. Staccato rains and whipping winds beat down as though to loose our grip from solid ground. Despite the storm that flashed from booming skies, cocooned and shielded, we soon closed our eyes.

We fell asleep with thunder as the chime that marked the turbulence of passing time. We drifted sleepily through wind and rain absorbing rhythms of the storm's refrain as dog and I dozed off amid the fuss of raging elements surrounding us.

Awake! Awake! Our senses zeroed in, my face near contact with the tent's thin skin, a mirror to a face as close outside that posed in silence listening, cold-eyed.

The dog and I lay still, fully aware the creature just outside was waiting there.

I could not hear; the storm noise filled my ears. I could not see; the blackness fueled my fears. But still I knew the soundless presence there was taking samples from the swirling air and measuring the size of the alarm, deciding if we meant it any harm.

It did not make a movement, nor did we.

I strained to learn the beast's identity before its mystic presence be withdrawn, but then, as quiet as it came, was gone.

Without a breath of sound it disappeared and with it took the silent threats we feared.

The storm that buffeted throughout the night transformed itself to calm by early light.

The scent that lingered in the morning air was musky proof the creature had been there.

What visited in darkness, we're not sure, but we both know the odor of wet fur.

Correction

The organization formerly named PAW(S) is now named Alliance of Purebred Dog Writers (APDW). APDW was incorrectly referred to as PAWS in the general meeting minutes in the March issue.

Schuller Chosen as Writer in Residence

In addition to winning a major fiction writing contest again in 2007, Diane Schuller was chosen as the Writer-in-Residence for 2008 for the library system in her region. This is a new initiative by the Writers Guild of Alberta, of which Schuller is an active member.



Mary Bloom certainly captured the moment as TJ, Mordecai's son, presented his father with the DWAA's Hall of Fame Award. A special note of thanks to Mary for preserving this memorable moment, to TJ for making it special, and to Mordecai, for all of his years of devotion to dog writing and the DWAA.



Charlotte Reed (L) chats with Susan Cheney at the DWAA banquet. "Wow, how creative..."

BOOK REVIEWS

By Kim Townsend

Beguiling Bundle - Death Takes Best of Breed,
by Jean C. Keating, Astra Publishers, \$14.95,
paperback, 256 pages

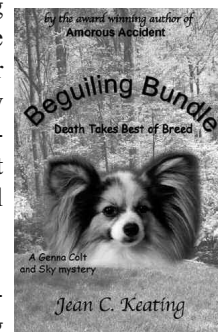
To the dog-writer, writing about dog shows may be

second nature, but to many readers that have never been involved in the world of purebred dogs, “show lingo” can be very intimidating and confusing. Keating takes the reader into the show ring, keeping it real and keeping it simple -- turning a fictional novel into an exciting course in *Dog Shows 101*.

Genna Colt and her Papillon named Sky are uninvited guests to a seemingly random murder. Keating brings out the multi-tasker in all of us, as Genna is forced to deal with a murderer on the loose; an upcoming show; a foster dog whelping two puppies, one with a life-threatening birth defect; a father unwilling to accept the limitations of his health and age; her “day job;” and houseguests that refuse to let her don the Wonder Woman cape alone.

Never failing to realize her readers’ limitations, Keating seems to know all the right places to expand on the stumbling blocks readers might encounter. Most writers would skim over the details, leaving the reader to turn the page and hope all the pieces fall into place later in the book.

Kudos to Keating for this entertaining and educational book for dog lovers!



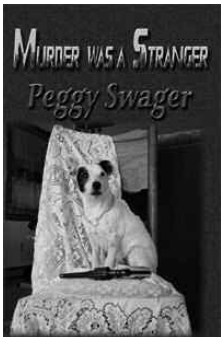
Murder was a Stranger (2007)

By Peggy Swager, WhooDoo Mysteries - a division of Treble Heart Books. \$11.95, paperback, 190 pages.

A perfect read for a rainy summer night, Swager nails her characters’ personalities, including Cookie, the Jack Russell Terrier. Cookie falls far short of saving Timmy from the well, and stays well within the boundaries of what to expect from your typical JRT.

Swager draws us into the life of her main character, Kate Summers, a small town Colorado cop investigating the death of an eccentric middle-aged woman with plenty of enemies and secrets. Resisting a typical approach of glamorizing or exaggerating her characters, Swager brings us real-world people that readers will likely relate to in their own lives. This murder-mystery is an easy read, yet keeps you guessing to the very end.

As an avid reader and aspiring novel-writer, one of the biggest obstacles I face is finding a happy medium between keeping characters interesting, yet staying within my realm of knowledge. I really liked Swager’s style of writing -- it reminded me that even “normal” people can lead exciting lives worthy of writing about. Characters are important, but the plot is what keeps the pages turning. Swager’s ability to intertwine both is what makes this a good book!



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