

# Ruff Drafts: The Voice of DWAA™

DOG WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.  
FOUNDED 1935

JANUARY 2009  
WESTMINSTER ISSUE



*This Month:  
DWAA Hall of Fame  
New York Tales  
Annual DWAA Meeting*



Photo credit: Alajos Schuszler/NYC Parks Photo Archive, 1934

Here is the statue of Balto, one of the sled dogs who completed the famous "Serum Run" in 1925, mushing through blizzard conditions to save an entire Alaska community suffering from a devastating diphtheria epidemic. The rescue operation inspired the annual Iditarod race. Just one of the many dog-related New York City sights, take a stroll to see Balto's statue in Central Park, on the path near the Tisch Children's Zoo. You'll feel a chill reading the inscription:

*Dedicated To The Indomitable Spirit Of*

*The Sled Dogs*

*That Relayed Antitoxin Six Hundred Miles Over Rough Ice,  
Across Treacherous Waters, Through Arctic Blizzards From  
Nenana To The Relief Of Stricken Nome In The  
Winter Of 1925.*

*ENDURANCE FIDELITY INTELLIGENCE*

# President's Message

By now, most of us have recovered from the busy holiday season and are finalizing our New Years resolutions. The problem for some is that they make a list so long that they cannot accomplish their good intentions. Others will focus on only one or two goals and then drill down into them. There is yet another group who does not have any goals for the New Year. Sometimes, they are talked into a resolution or two if prompted by a friend or someone at the office.

When I began to think about New Years resolutions for myself, I became aware of the vast number of opportunities one has to do something. For me, I thought about resolutions for my role as a husband, father, board member and writer. That is a lot of areas in which to come up with meaningful resolutions for the next 12 months. The more I considered my options and what was realistic, given my busy schedule, the more I reflected on each of the categories. As a husband, I could be more considerate of little things I need to do around the house, which would make life easier for my wife. As a father, I could support my children who are now grown but might need fatherly advice or ideas about something they find troubling. As a board member and president of DWAA, I could invest more of my time on programs that would bring new members into the organization. As a writer, I could choose a few topics that are aimed at those new to the profession.

At the end of the day, I wanted my resolutions to be positive, and I hoped that they would make a difference. I wondered if I could accomplish what I had listed. If I

didn't try, nothing would be accomplished. I began by putting the list of resolutions on the refrigerator. I go there every day, and it would serve as a good reminder of what I had promised myself I would try to do. I like the idea of keeping my goals in front of me. The refrigerator is where my day starts. I love breakfast, so when I go there for juice and milk every morning, my list of resolutions stares at me as a reminder of what I have set out to do.

Rather than just posting the list, I developed a "to do" list that I keep in my calendar. I have a to-do list for each resolution for each month. For example, in January and February I have a list of people to contact and specific things to get done. High on the January list is a reminder that I need to say something to DWAA members as a reminder to get their dues and banquet money in to the secretary. Another is to send thank you notes to those who shared cards and ideas with us at DWAA. I could go on, but I will save the rest for another day.

In closing, let me say that those who can write have a gift. It is not something they own, and it is not a right. The gift is something that should be shared with others to make what we have better. I am looking forward to a great year for DWAA and our writers. I hope that everyone has made a resolution to write about something that might help others.

Happy New Year to every DWAA member.

With warm regards  
*Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia*  
President

## Volunteers Needed

As we prepare for the awards ceremony and banquet on February 8, we'd love some helping hands! Do you have time on Saturday, February 7, to help prepare materials for the banquet? If so, please e-mail Pat Santi at RHYDOWN@aol.com. It's a fun way to get acquainted with some of your DWAA friends.

## DWAA Officers

### President

Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia, GA, cbattaglia@mindspring.com

### Vice President

Susan Ewing, NY, dogwriter@windstream.net

### Secretary

Pat Santi, PA, rhydown@aol.com

### Treasurer

Rue Chagoll, NY, rchagoll@capital.net

## Committee – Chair and Members

### By-laws

Ida Estep, NC, iwestep@earthlink.net

Committee Members:

Rue Chagoll, Deb Eldredge, Patricia Cruz, Pat Santi

### Hall of Fame

Ranny Green, WA, rannygreen@hotmail.com

Committee Members:

Patricia Cruz, Ida Estep

### Annual Banquet

Pat Santi, PA, rhydown@aol.com

Committee Members:

Charlotte Reed, Deb Eldredge

### Annual Awards Contest

Liz Palika, CA, lizpalika@gmail.com

### Publicity

Charlotte Reed, NY, char@charlottereed.com

### Junior Scholarship

Lee-Ann Germinder, NJ, lgerminder@germinder.com

### DWAA / Cat Writers Liaison

Marion Lane, NY, marion@aspc.org

### Newsletter

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### Web Master / Graphic Designer

Paul Casto, NY, paul@paulcasto.com

### Chat List

Dr. Stephanie Smith, TX, lambkennels1@juno.com

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# SECRETARY'S PAGE

## Recent DWAA Board Votes

### Web Mistress/Web Master

Our web mistress, Kim Townsend, has resigned and we have found a replacement. His name is Paul Costa and he is computer geek. He understands our site and knows how to run it and will be putting PayPal up soon. He is doing this for a very small fee. Board voted 8 yes and 3 did not vote.

### 2009 Banquet Program

Kim Townsend also resigned from doing the program for the banquet and Matthew Schenker has taken over the job. Board voted 8 yes and 3 did not vote.

### Electronic/Hard Copy Newsletter

Board voted 7 yes and 4 did not vote for membership to vote for an electronic or hard copy of newsletter as they wish.

*NOTE: Members who wish to receive electronic versions of Ruff Drafts, please e-mail Pat Santi at RHYDOWEN@aol.com*

### ANNUAL MEETING FOR ALL MEMBERS!

**Date:** February 8, 2009

**Time:** 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

**Place:** Affinia Manhattan Hotel

## Roster Updates

### Sue LeMieux

cell: 937-215-6322

### Joanne Anderson

Babylon Beacon/P

### Janice Biniok

The Animal Pen/P

### Joan M. Harrigan

cell: 207-837-2649

### Suzanne Hively

work: 419-433-6678

### Patricia J. Lawson

5 Granville Drive  
Elkview, WV 25071  
work: 304-546-5734

### Katie Marsico

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Elmhurst, IL 60126-2615

### C.J. Puotinen

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### Sandy Robbins

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SandyRobbinsOnline@gmail.com

### Charlotte Reed

362 Broome Street #20  
work: 212-966-5225, Fax: 212-686-0218

### Reinstatements:

#### Susan Marino

2000/P  
510 Archie Elliot Road  
Dehli, NY 13753  
607-746-9211, 607-746-9219,  
cell: 631-742-8027, www.angelsgate.org

#### Joan Hustace Walker

1996/P  
820 Yorkshire Trail  
Chesapeake, VA 23322  
757-546-0993, joan@joanhwalker.com

## Dues Notice

Remember...pay your dues by March 1st each year. DWAA Membership is just \$40 per year, allowing you to network with fellow dog writers, receive *Ruff Drafts* newsletters, and join DWAA's discussion forum and chat list. Members also get a discounted rate at the annual banquet and awards ceremony. Fill out this form to complete your membership:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work or cell \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Organization or Freelance \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Year joined (if available) \_\_\_\_\_

Professional \_\_\_\_\_ Associate \_\_\_\_\_

Choose "Professional" if you are paid for writing; "Associate" if you are not paid. Check your the roster to see if it is necessary to update your status.

If your dues were not paid for this past year and you are still getting a newsletter this may be your last issue unless you dues are paid. Make checks out to DWAA, and send to:

Pat Santi, Secretary

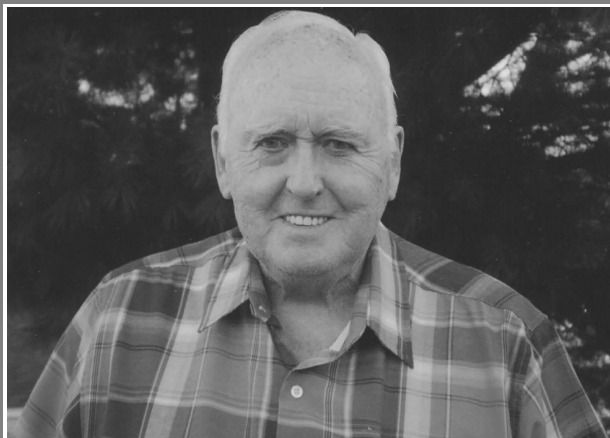
173 Union Road  
Coatesville, PA 19320-1326

Phone: 610-384-2436 Fax: 610-384-2471 e-mail: rhydowen@aol.com

# DWAA Hall of Fame

Each year, a select few are chosen to be included in the DWAA Hall of Fame. This is in recognition of a lifetime of valuable contributions to dogs and dog writing. Inductees are selected by a vote of the DWAA Hall of Fame Committee.

They will receive full recognition honoring their work at the annual awards banquet on February 8, 2009. For now, here are photos of these outstanding individuals, and just a few words about their many achievements.  
*Matthew Schenker*



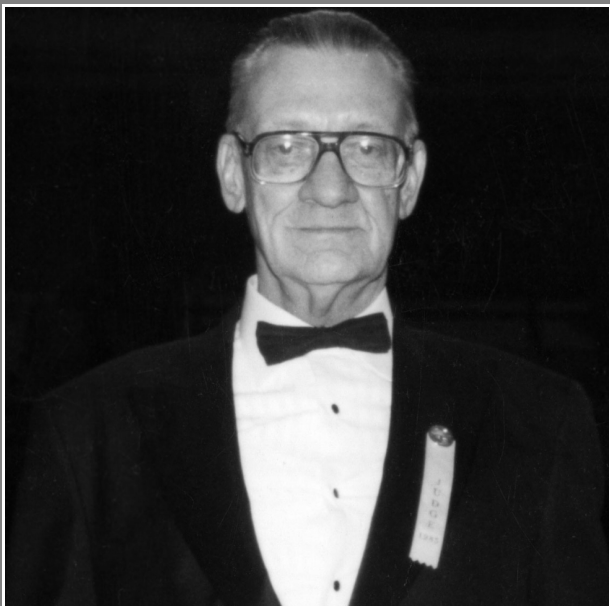
**Tom O'Shea**

Expertly developed effective connections between corporations and dog writers. Manager of the Westminster Hospitality Suite for 14 years – just one example of his selfless good will towards writers.



**Arthur J. Haggerty (1931-2006)**

"The Captain," a leading figure in effective dog training, freely shared his sharp but friendly insights with others in person and through his many publications. AKC show judge for six different breeds.



**Elsworth S. Howell (1916 – 1987)**

"Mr. Howell," Founder and publisher of Howell Book House. Dedicated dog breeder. Nearly 50 years as an AKC all-breed show judge, highlighted in his 1985 appearance as Best-of-Show judge at Westminster.



**Rachel Paige Elliott**

Skilled in the many ways to connect with her audience, "Pagey" makes equal use of writing, video, photography, and speaking. Her canine anatomy and training material continues to be a resource for all dog lovers.

# The City, Dogs, Connections, and Writing

February is a big month, a great month to find new writing ideas and forge new connections! There is the most time-tested dog show of the year – Westminster – with glamor and intense media attention for the well-dressed exhibitors and perfectly coiffed dogs.

That same weekend, a (perhaps) less glamorous bunch gets together: writers who explore great stories, fascinating science, quirky biography, humor, and more about our four-legged companions. The following pages offer some inspiration...Mordecai Siegel shares sage words with fellow dog writers; Corey Muller, public relations manager at Vizion Group, gives a quick history of the new dog in town, with a photo by DWAA member Mary Bloom; Chris Walkowicz encourages everyone to enjoy this little town; and your humble newsletter editor shares an interview with a Westminster Best-in-Show winner (previously published in the AKC Gazette). *Matthew Schenker*

## A Little Help From Your Friends

*By Mordecai Siegal, DWAA President Emeritus*

In Hemingway's *Snows of Kilimanjaro* his main character lies dying in his tent of a tenacious infection. In his mind a leopard has lost its way and is stranded somewhere near the peak of the snowy mountain and will perish because it cannot find its way down. The man is a writer and in his delirium keeps trying to formulate the one perfect paragraph, the one perfect sentence, the one perfect word to express all that he feels and knows about his life and his world. Of course he fails as his wife sits close by, helpless and unable to quench his need.

There are no rules for writing that apply to all of us, classrooms notwithstanding. We must find our own way and we must carry our own water. Many require solitude and quiet while others must be in a cacophony of boisterous activity. Some cannot write without pressure while others require financial or emotional security. And then there are those who write as if it were one of the performing arts and do it in public with an audience. No matter, as long as good words are committed to permanence.

Sooner or later everyone who writes faces that brick wall of self-doubt and creative drought. Pacing, cigarettes, Scotch, will not help. Not even hollering at the cat. There was a time when looking at all the books on my shelves would unstick my mind. Most often, though, I would get on the phone or on my email program and reach out to a colleague. Most of my colleagues are fellow dog writers who belong to the organization nearest and dearest to my heart, the Dog Writers Association of America. My copy of the membership directory is dog-eared and bent-backed, almost beyond recognition.

So, if you have a passion for dogs, write a lot, a little, for a living, for the love of it, or for the hell of it, I invite you to join us at the DWAA. Sometimes we're good company and sometimes we're irritating beyond belief, but we are always interesting. At DWAA there is friendship to be found, networking to take advantage of, and at important times, a helping hand.

## Introducing Dogue de Bordeaux

*By Corey Muller (cmuller@viziongroup.com)*

The newly recognized Dogue de Bordeaux will be competing for the first year at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. Also known as the French Mastiff, the Dogue de Bordeaux, is the AKC's 158th recognized breed and will be joining the Working Group designation.

The breed's name dates back to the first canine exhibition in 1863 at the "Jardin d'Acclimation" in Paris, France. There, the Dogue de Bordeaux was given the name of the capital of its region of origin.

Originally, the Dogues de Bordeaux were used as guardians, hunters and fighters, often as protectors of the wealthy in France. Breeders, over time, have softened their temperament. However, they are still a loyal, patient and fearless breed.

Despite being among the most ancient of purebred dogs, it wasn't until the 1960's that the breed made its first appearance in the United States.

Dogues de Bordeaux can be recognized by their heavy, broad, wrinkled heads and stocky, athletic build. They are also judged by their gait, which is preferably classified as a trot, including good extension of the forelegs.



Photo credit: Mary Bloom, Westminster Kennel Club

# NEW YORK, NEW YORK, THAT TODDLING TOWN

*By Chris Walkowicz, the Bearded Lady*

Every Year the mantra from some of our members is: "Let's move it from New York." It is an expensive city; it's also exciting and entertaining. I've gone there to partake of DWAA's banquet and Westminster's excitement 20 times since 1985. Every year I went, I tried to take advantage of the city's many offerings and always took in at least one non-doggy tourist attraction. I usually went early to attend the Dog Judges seminars so had some extra time to check out these events. I do enjoy a life other than dogs!

If you aren't into show dogs or even if you are, NYC abounds with fun and interesting things to do, people to see, places to go.

The museums are like no other – except maybe Paree's (and when I went there the Louvre was on strike). Often, special showings are scheduled during Westminster week, and William Secord's Gallery is always full of beautiful dog art.

Although the city is full of scrumptious restaurants, we often planned one or two nice outings and hit salad bars or delis for the other meals. If you stay at the Affinia, they offer kitchenettes with a frig, stove, dishes and microwave. Of course, the usual chain restaurants are abundant if you're not daring or on a budget. Baristas whip up gourmet coffees near the Garden for those of us who can't live without them. And a deli is just two doors down from the Affinia.

Probably the most emotional place is Ellis Island. Many of us have ancestors who made the trek, and the stories of people who went through great difficulties to step foot on American soil are moving. And you can take the reasonable and well-known Staten Island Ferry to get there – with a stop at the Statue of Liberty another draw. Yes, I climbed all those stairs to the top!

We took a bus tour of the city and went to China Town during a Chinese New Year. We watched the dragon dancing and dodged the firecrackers. I bought a good luck charm and that night won Best Book at DWAA's banquet.

Every year I went to a couple plays. Most big cities have plays, but few have the choice of the scads of plays in NYC. I love 'em! There's something special about plays on Broadway – or off Broadway for that matter. I'd hum show tunes for the next few days. You can buy discount tix for same day performances if you're willing to stand in line at the TKTS booth in

Times Square. Go to [http://www.tdf.org/TDF\\_ServicePage.aspx?id=56](http://www.tdf.org/TDF_ServicePage.aspx?id=56) and check out more places and times.

The American Kennel Club often hosts an open house, but if you can't make that, try to drop in to see the wonderful art and the amazing library – a boon for writers!

One year we took a hansom cab around Central Park. Bundle up and go! A must see: the statue of Balto (albeit not the dog who ran the longest leg in the Iditarod incentive race that brought the diphtheria vaccine to Nome).

An unbelievable moment occurred when Bonnie Wilcox and I decided to go to an opera. Dress ranged from formal to jeans or a mix of jeans with a fur coat. While we were watching "Die Fledermaus," Pavarotti did a walk-on! Absolutely unbelievable. This experience encouraged us to take a tour of the opera house on another trip to NYC. It was fascinating.

No visit would be complete without a memorial visit to Ground Zero. It's guaranteed to bring tears to your eyes remembering that horrific day.

And, of course, there's always shopping. Macy's is just down the street and sales going on during show week. Do you think they planned that? Exhibitors are often found sorting through suits or trying on shoes...and then there's the bling.

If that's not enough, 774 tours are listed under "things to do in NYC."

Westminster is the main draw for many of us. No matter how late I was out to the DWAA dinner, plays or parties, I'd be in the Press Room about 7:30 and seated at ringside shortly after with the purple and gold catalog in my hand. And I'd be there til the show ended with goosebumps and thrills to see the gorgeous dogs.

Most of these things are fairly reasonable, especially when combined with roommates and inexpensive restaurants. Yes, I roomed with several others to save on the admittedly high hotel rates. But I found that part of the fun. It's like sleep-overs or camp, talking dogs or other events late into the night. Who goes to NYC to sleep?

Hum along with me! New York, New York, that toddling town.

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## Last Call: The Business of Pet Writing Conference

You have a few days left to register for the first Pet Writing Conference.



Times are tough, but how can you afford not to come. Meet publishing and pet industry experts. Network with other writers.

For more information, contact The Pet Socialite at 212-631-3648, [info@petwritingconference.com](mailto:info@petwritingconference.com)



# A View From the Winner's Circle

*By Matthew Schenker*

For most dog-show enthusiasts, winning at Westminster would be the highlight of their lives, the trophy and ornate ribbon symbols of the hard work they put into training. For James, the English Springer Spaniel who took 2007 Westminster Best in Show, winning came because his owner, Teresa Patton, emphasized just about everything except trying to be a best-in-show dog. "The key to our success is that James had a normal life. Our dogs are house pets who happen to become champions," Patton explains.

**Early Stimulation** Patton wanted James to have a full emotional and mental life. "I put mobiles above my puppies' heads, to teach them to look up and look around. They are constantly surrounded by music, people coming in and out. From a very young age, even if they just parade around the kitchen with a toy, we applaud and tell them how wonderful they are." Ironically, emphasizing non-show qualities results in greater success in the ring. "People often think that nurturing their dogs for the show ring means grooming, feeding, exercise. I develop the mind first. They are always going to have hair!"

**Training Philosophy** Expanding the mind of her dogs involves more than praise and play. For Patton, it all began in the mid-1980s, when she was looking to become more intellectually fulfilled herself. "I opened my own dog-obedience school." She established Felicity Dog Training School in 1989. Since then, Patton has employed clicker training in private and group classes. "We've taught celebrities, professional athletes. When they come to my class, they're just like everybody else – it's about being JoJo's dad or Fluffy's mom. They just want to have a well-behaved pet."

Most students never enter a conformation ring, which is fine with Patton. She describes her students' successes: "They have won multiple titles and high honors in rally, obedience, and agility. It's so rewarding to see the tools I've given them make a better dog and strengthen the human-dog bond."

Patton emphasizes that the best route to a happy connection is mutual trust and a desire to please each other. "Dogs by nature want to please. My job is to help people build that connection."

She says good training never involves force. "That's just using fear. In my classes, I won't let people use prong collars," she says. "What happens when you remove that collar? You have no control."

Key to Patton's success at Felicity, and in the show ring, is including her own dogs in class. James has been a king among students for years. Patton describes a favorite demonstration. "It's called air leash. I move my hand as if I'm holding a leash. But there's no actual leash. I let James see my hand, and when I move he begins to gait as if there's a real leash."

Patton invites students to try air leash. "The student says something like, 'No way will that work with my dog.' Well, we do it, and it works! You just have to

build that connection."

Air leash helps Patton make larger points. "In class, there's constant exchange. The dog gives you this piercing look, almost right into your soul, asking, 'What else can I do?' This goes for any dog, not just James, not just Springers. People often see their dog and themselves as separate entities. You need to think of yourselves as being in the same space."

**James the Philanthropist** Winning in the show ring is not enough for Patton, nor for James. Obedience, rally, and agility are also not enough. Patton takes James into hospitals, where he uses his connecting powers to help Alzheimer's patients. "The longer they stroke James, the clearer their sentences become. They know they can take their time getting their thoughts out. James doesn't judge. There's total acceptance."

Patton is proud to report that in February 2007, her Westminster champion became a "celebrity" for the Alzheimer's Association. "Twenty celebrities speak for the Association – all these famous people, and James! He's bringing more awareness to Alzheimer's." James' skills were further tested when he and Patton began going into hospitals to meet children who are difficult to reach emotionally. "James works with anorexic girls, kids with hyperactivity problems, or other serious difficulties. I'll ask, 'Who wants to join James and me?' A lot of these kids are really drawn within themselves. A hyperactive kid will volunteer to come up. They'll start using some toys. One by one, the other kids join in. The kids start brushing James, and before you know it, the questions are coming. It's amazing how the kids come out of themselves. It might sound corny, but when James does therapy, it comes from his heart. I can't cue the piercing way he looks and wants to please people."

James' vibes affect anyone in the vicinity. "One time, I was reading to the children. I looked up and saw all the doctors outside the room, watching. They had tears in their eyes."

**Westminster Has its Advantages** Still, Patton cannot deny that winning the most visible event on the show-dog calendar helped James become a spokesdog for the Alzheimer's Association. Or did his therapy work give him what he needed to win at Westminster? Winning gained Patton greater respect at Felicity. "Students know there must be something special about him. But they've known him since he was a puppy and saw the silly things he does. They've known him as a celebrity, but also a normal dog."

When James goes to children's hospitals, the kids know him as the dog who appeared on Animal Planet. "Touching James is suddenly more special to them."

It has been a whirlwind of interviews, charity events, and the Oprah Winfrey Show. Patton reflects on the experiences: "Ribbons fade. They are just things. If you can really connect with your dog, and help other people, that transcends any award you'll ever win."



## **"Newshound" Hospitality Suite at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show**

Please join the American Kennel Club Communications Department during the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show for the "Newshound" Hospitality Suite at the Affinia Manhattan Hotel. All members of the media covering the festivities are invited to come and relax, grab a snack, work on a story, conduct an interview, meet AKC Staffers or chat with fellow professionals. A continental breakfast and coffee as well as afternoon snacks and refreshments will be available. FREE WI-FI access will also be provided.



# AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB®

**WHO:** AKC Communications Department

**WHAT:** Invites the media to the "Newshound" Hospitality Suite

**WHERE:** Affinia Manhattan Hotel, 371 Seventh Avenue, across from Madison Square Garden

**WHEN:** Monday, Feb. 9 and Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2009 from 8 am to 5 pm.

**HOW:** If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Smith at 212-696-8228 or [sxs2@akc.org](mailto:sxs2@akc.org). RSVP to order Wi-Fi access by January 26, 2009.

Pat Santi  
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