



ruff DRAFTS

Spring 2020

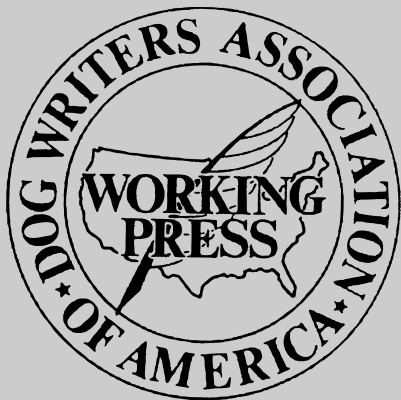
In This Issue

Member News, page 4 • Young Writers Program Continues, page 8
DWAA Book Club, page 8 • Reporting from the Annual Awards Banquet, Page 12
Dog Art, page 20 • Member Reports from WKC, page 26

Spotlight on Angela Schneider

Page 22





Officers

Carol Bryant, President

fidoseofreality@gmail.com

Maggie Marton, Vice President

maggie.marton@gmail.com

Kristin Avery, Secretary

kristinavery9@gmail.com

Marsha M. Pugh, Treasurer

marsha_pugh01@comcast.net

Jen Reeder, Past President

jen@jenreeder.com

Ida W. Estep, Esq., Legal Counsel

iwestep@earthlink.net

Board of Governors

CLASS OF 2022

Caroline Coile, Ph.D.

ccoile@windstream.net

Laurie C. Williams, CPDT-KA, CDTI

lauriecwilliamsk9@gmail.com

CLASS OF 2021

Joel Gavriale-Gold, Ph.D.

dr.joelgold@gmail.com

CLASS OF 2020

Gail C. Parker

rebelslair@aol.com

Patricia Cruz

lacruz928@optonline.net

CLASS OF 2019

Karen Harbert

aelwydcwc@aol.com

President's

COLUMN

By **Carol Bryant**

DWAA PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow DWAA Members,

These are trying times in which we live. As I sit down to write this President's message, never in a million dog years could I have imagined the world in its present state.

As writers, journalists, bloggers, influencers, artists, and beyond, the power of our words and the strength of our messages is stronger than ever. In these challenging times, dog owners look to us for guidance, advice, and ways to persevere. Those of us who are touched by the power that is canine know the magic that is dog. Keep writing, keep sharing, and keep the faith.

We look back, we look ahead, and we look inward as we face this world pandemic together.

Looking back, on Sunday, February 9, the Dog Writers Association of America hosted its annual banquet and awards event at the Holiday Inn in Secaucus, New Jersey. This year, we sold out for the first time in a while, and, oh, the memories that were made. Guests enjoyed keynote speeches from author **Anne Serling** and Dogwise's **Larry Woodward**, dined on a delicious Italian buffet, and received many surprises throughout the evening.

Winners of the DWAA 2019 Writing Competition received Maxwell medallions and over \$15,000 in special award monies were awarded thanks to our treasured sponsors. You'll find all winners in this issue of Ruff Drafts, with im-



Carol Bryant, President of the DWAA

ages from the event on the DWAA official Facebook page.

Looking ahead, we'd love to see you at the 2021 event to be held in Secaucus, New Jersey, once again, as the feedback has been stellar. Special thanks to our Banquet and Contest Chair, **Darlene Bryant**, for all of her hard work in pulling this event together and overseeing the competition with all of its moving parts.

Looking inward, your DWAA team is here for you now more than ever. Collectively, we are here to serve you and what is best for our members. In order to help grow the organization, a new benefit will be rolled out in April. A private members-only Facebook group is coming! Stay tuned and be sure to check your email for an update when we launch.

See *PRESIDENT'S COLUMN* pg 36

By **Merrie Meyers**

Dear Fellow Dog Lovers;

Who knew that when we selected "*In An Instant*," as the theme for the Spring Issue it would be so telling! It seems like just a moment ago the definition of "normal" has changed. We are facing a future in which human interaction will certainly look different.

As I write this, it's a Sunday night at the end of March. Life, as we know it, has changed dramatically in the last two weeks. Right now, no one I know is affected by COVID-19, but it's only a matter of time. The predictions are dire. The math is that this will touch all of us in some way. The six degrees of **Kevin Bacon** will become perhaps the four degrees of COVID-19.

The one bright spot in this darkness is that no matter what lies ahead, my dog Sunny, will be by my side. He sits, just off to my right, patiently waiting for me to stop typing or sewing (I've been making masks for people) and serve dinner so he can get a small sliver of whatever I'm eating. Thank goodness for the dogs. In these days filled with the apprehension of not-if-but-when, our four-legged family members are there to comfort us.

So many things that we took for granted--office water cooler conversations, visits to the library, running a few quick errands--are now vastly different. We engage with friends using Facetime, Messenger, Google Hangouts, Skype or Zoom. We check books out using a digital portal. We think twice about running



Merrie Meyers, Editor of Ruff Drafts

a few quick errands, making sure that we are "armed" with adequate sprays, wipes and guards to protect ourselves from an unknown, unseen predator.

Of course, my nearly 13-year-old Parson Russell believes he is totally the reason I remain upbeat. So don't tell him, but in addition to his antics, and the reassuring calm that comes over me when I rub his head, I have been surfing social media, looking for bright spots.

Lately, I've been checking in with *Pluto Living* on YouTube, watching the regular updates of the miniature female schnauzer living in the Canadian heartland. Her uplifting advice to the "two-leggeds" is both funny and motivational. Gosh, I wish I were that clever.

As we shelter at home for goodness knows how long, we have to be grate-

See EDITOR'S LETTER pg 32

DWAA Committees

BUDGET AND FINANCE

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

BYLAWS & LEGAL

Ida Estep, Chair
Carmen Battaglia, Patricia Cruz

2019 CONTEST

Darlene Bryant, Chair
Officers and Board

HALL OF FAME

Joel Gavrielle-Gold
Bryna Comsky

LIAISON WITH CAT WRITERS ASSOCIATION

Susan Ewing

MEMBERSHIP

Marsha Pugh, Chair
Bryna Comsky, Susan Ewing

RUFF DRAFTS

Merrie Meyers, Editor
Maggie Marton, Assistant Editor
Morgan Humphrey, Assistant Editor
Leslie Brown, Assistant Editor
Angela Capodanno, Designer

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: Shelley Bueche, Lisa Begin-Kruysman
Twitter: Dawn Taylor
Instagram: Hannah Zulueta

WEBMASTER

Jill Caren

Ruff Drafts

send all material to Merrie Meyers
merrie.meyers@gmail.com

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.



Meet our

NEW MEMBERS

Annemarie O'Brien

Annemarie O'Brien writes dog books for children and blogs on [Best Dog Books](#). She is the author of [Lara's Gift](#), published by Alfred A. Knopf of Penguin Random House with subsidiary rights to Scholastic. *Lara's Gift* is inspired from a former life when Annemarie worked in Russia and was gifted her first borzoi. *Lara's Gift* has received starred reviews from *School Library Journal* and *Kirkus Reviews*, among other accolades.

Annemarie has an MFA in Writing from the Vermont College of Fine Arts. She lives in the San Francisco Bay area and teaches writing courses at UC Berkeley, Stanford, and Pixar.

Mary Schwager

Mary Schwager, aka, WatchdogMary is a TV and print journalist watchdogging for animals. During her career, she has won 16 Emmys, eight Edward R. Murrow and Associated Press awards for investigative reporting and writing.

She was just nominated for two special category awards by the Dog Writers Association of America. She is always looking for story ideas and open to speaking engagements contact her via [watchdogmary.com](#) and find her on social media at @watchdogmary.

Pictured Above: AnneMarie O'Brien
with dogs Zar (L) and Zola (R)



Mary Schwager



Michael Hoffman



Meredith Wargo and Moose

Meredith Wargo

The recipient of three Maxwell Medallions from DWAA, Meredith Wargo has a bachelor's degree in journalism from Baylor University in Waco, Texas. Although a native Texan, Meredith currently lives in southern Utah with her husband and a menagerie of rescued pets. Her favorite writing topics include promoting the heroic efforts of animal rescue groups and shelters or sharing news about the latest advances in animal health and wellness.

Michael Hoffman

Michael Hoffman is a Doctor of Addictive Disorders (Dr. AD) and holds a Master's Degree in counseling psychology. He is also a Unified Mindfulness meditation coach and a master hypnotherapist.

Hoffman's books and articles include *Life After Rehab*, *The Thirsty Addict Papers*, *Hounds of Mercy*, *Ridgeback Tales* and *Mind on the Run*. He is a University of Missouri School of Journalism graduate and has received the Public Relations Society of America's Protos Award for Excellence in Trade Journalism.

Hoffman's counseling emphasizes Buddhist practice, canine-assisted therapy and existential choice-making to relieve stress caused by social conditioning and decay of spiritual and environmental values.



Rachel Brix and Percy

Rachel Brix

Rachel Brix, B.S.Ed., CPDT-KA, is a veteran high school English teacher who, inspired by her dog Percy, resigned to pursue a career with dogs. For over a decade she has been helping people and dogs communicate better through positive reinforcement training. She has also been very active in animal legislative efforts and is both a published writer and professional speaker. She's twice been nominated for DWAA awards and has spoken twice at the Association of Professional Dog Trainers' annual conference. She and her husband operate Percy's Playground boarding and training facility where the focus is on human interaction and enrichment. They live in Arkansas with their six rescues.

Linda Hempler

Many years ago, I received the greatest gift I have ever received from another human being. I named that gift Chico. Since then, and many Chihuahuas later, Chihuahuas became my passion!

When I learned that Chihuahuas are the second breed found most often in shelters — second only to Pit Bulls — it soon became my mission to do something to help change these sad statistics, to educate Chihuahua owners and guardians about the breed and to inspire others to consider a Chihuahua if they are thinking of adopting from a shelter. Along with my blog, ChiChis And Me, I have written three books about Chihuahua health, training, and behavior.

Along with my years of experience, I work closely with other experts at a very busy state-of-the-art veterinary hospital.



Linda Hempler and Pebbles

NEW MEMBERS are encouraged to share a photo and a bit of background information, so we can get to know you! Please email our editor at merrie.meyers@gmail.com.

MEMBER NEWS



Pet Blogging for Love & Money: Everything you need to build, grow, and sustain a profitable pet blog and social media presence

DWAA President Carol Bryant and Vice President Maggie Marton released *Pet Blogging for Love & Money*, the definitive guide to creating or growing a pet-centric online brand.

Whether you're just starting out or are a seasoned content creator, this comprehensive resource shares all the industry secrets, and you don't need a tech background or a marketing degree to take action. Each of the 15 chapters is

packed full of practical tips and accessible advice you can implement right away. Plus, each chapter includes bonus content to guide you to success—worksheets, checklists, plans, templates, and more. Gain inspiration from successful bloggers and social superstars featured in case studies that illustrate the principles you will learn in this book.

Available on [Amazon](#).

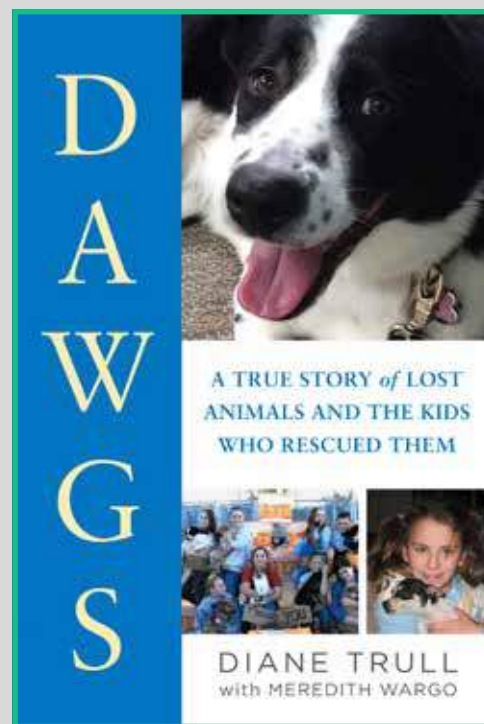
New Member, New Book

We can all make a difference. Elementary-school teacher Diane Trull's life-defining moment happened when her fourth-grade reading class saw a photo of a cardboard box overflowing with homeless puppies. Trull was no stranger to rescuing abandoned animals. She and her husband Mark had made it their mission to find permanent homes for stray dogs and cats. Now her young students were determined to save these lost pups and others like them. And in that moment, the Dalhart Animal Wellness Group and Sanctuary—known as DAWGS—was born.

How Trull and her fourth graders started their own animal shelter is a story of dedication, commitment, and perseverance. In this eye-opening, deeply personal book, Trull describes the challenges they faced, from rescuing and

carrying for the animals to teaching children about compassion and responsibility, to facing local authorities determined to shut them down. She shares inspiring stories about animals and animal lovers of all ages in this moving story of hope and compassion. DAWGS is a testament to how love and a strong measure of determination can offer second chances—one animal, one child, and one day at a time.

Meredith Wargo is a new DWAA member. She recently published her first nonfiction book titled, *DAWGS: The True Story of Lost Animals and the Kids Who Rescued Them*. <http://meredithwargo.com/book/>



Do you have news to share?

Send to Ruff Drafts Editor, Merrie Meyers at merrie.meyers@gmail.com

Proposed DWAA Book Club

By **Karen Harbert**

AUTHOR OF THE 'MURDER AT THE
DOG SHOW' SERIES ON AMAZON.
BOARD MEMBER, DWAA.

Dear Fellow DWAA Members:

This is a trying time for all of us, whether working from our homes, or stuck in them. To help keep our minds active and employed, and maybe help other members of our families fight off boredom, how about all of us joining in on our own online book club?

We have so many talents among us. This would be a good time to put them to use, and possibly promote sales of our books when reading for education and entertainment becomes one of our few options.

For about two years I was an administrator of DogRead. I have ideas about how to run a book club, but we'd also like your input. The DogRead model was to block off a two week period during which only the book of one author could be discussed. I thought that was too limiting; I'd rather have a more open discussion, although at least with some structure.

We have authors of books on training, on behavior, on diet. We have authors of fiction, both adult and juvenile. For those who have kids locked in at home, some of those books might help me avoid adding to my own specialty – murder plots.

Let's hear your ideas. Carol would like to launch this idea on our new, upcoming, Facebook page, so help us plan while that's still in progress. 🐾

DWAA'S YOUNG WRITERS PROGRAM Enters Its Third Year



Are you a dog-loving kid with a flair for words?

If so, the Dog Writers Association of America wants to hear from you. In March, the organization kicked off the third year of its Young Writers on the Web (YWOW) program.

Writers who are under 18-years old are encouraged to submit stories about dogs for possible publication on a special section of the DWAA website, and potentially in our newsletter *Ruff Drafts* as space allows. Articles published by the program will be eligible as entries for DWAA's annual writing competition.

In our first two years, we published some outstanding work, including:

- A first-person story by a young man who rescued a three-legged dog and a mangy stray from death in a shelter;
- A poem about the love between a boy and a dog who died;
- An insider's view of the world of hunting-dog competitions;

- Serious fiction that explored the inner workings of a stray dog's mind;
- Satire about the war between nations run by Cardigan Welsh Corgis and Australian Shepherds;
- An essay about how a special dog and an agility ring changed the life of a shy young girl, and much more.

What should you write about?

The short answer is anything that relates to dogs. For example:

- What you love about your dog
- A funny or special experience you had with a dog
- Your favorite thing to do with your dog
- Training your dog
- A make-believe short story about dogs
- Why your family gave your dog his/her name
- Advice for someone who is thinking about getting their first dog
- Funny things dogs do 🐾

To learn more, and to read the entries from the first two years, visit: <https://dogwriters.org/young-writers/>

CAROL BRYANT

Pet Writer, Blogger
DWAA President



GUEST INTERVIEW

A Big Bow WOW to DWAA President Bryant

By **Lea-Ann Germinder**
GOOD NEWS FOR PETS

Taking over the lead of any volunteer organization is no small feat these days, but taking the lead of one that began in 1935? Fearless Carol Bryant, a fellow PR maven and highly accomplished writer and blogger, agreed to take on the task as president last year for the Dog Writers Association of America (DWAA).

As DWAA was one of the first media organizations to partner with Goodnewsforpets.com back in 2000, we took the opportunity to celebrate our 20-year partnership with DWAA and the leadership Carol has shown in Goodnewsforpets.com's first 20th anniversary guest interview.

Congratulations Carol, you are doing not only good, you are doing great! — Lea-Ann Germinder, — Editor and Publisher, DWAA member.

Can you tell us first how you got involved in the dog writing community? Did you always write about dogs?

I've been writing since my diary and journaling days as a child growing up in a small town in northeastern Pennsylvania. Two constants in my life have always been books and dogs. Time has passed, but I'm that same girl with a pen in her hand and a dog by her side.

Prior to entering the dog writing world, I wrote medical copy behind the scenes. These days, I serve the pet industry from journalistic, pet parent, so-

cial media, marketing, public relations, and philanthropic perspectives. Ten years ago, I launched a successful dog blog, FidoseofReality.com, which is going strong and has its own fundraising arm called Wigglebutt Warriors.

The idea of belonging to an organization that offered me the opportunity to meet those in the know in the dog writing and publishing world is why I initially got involved with DWAA. Knowing I was part of an organization that stood for and about dog writers had been a long-time goal.

For those who don't know me, I've appeared on many television segments, radio shows, podcasts, speaking engagements, and have contributed to numerous pet publications, including BlogPaws, Dogster, Paw Culture, Dog

Continued on next page

Fancy, Fido Friendly, Pet360, AKC Family Dog, [Today.com](https://www.today.com), and Hamptons Pet.

My trademark is my mantra, which I proudly wear on my left bicep, My Heart Beats Dog®.

How did you learn about DWAA?

I learned about DWAA many years ago, pre-Google, when I was looking to see if any organizations existed to help dog writers. Imagine my glee and surprise when I landed on DWAA! My application came in the snail mail back then.

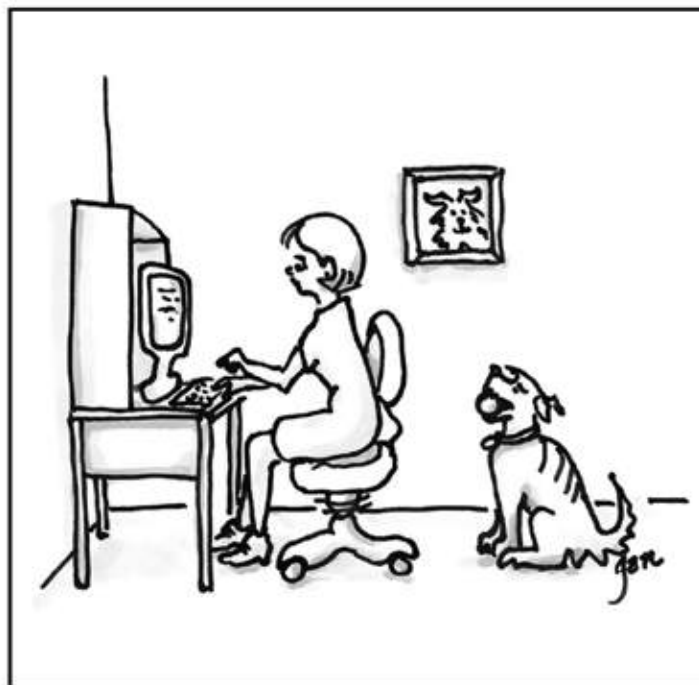
What has changed about the organization since you took on the role as president?

Since taking office after the awards banquet in 2019, there have been many positive changes to benefit the organization. These include:

- The more streamlined DWAA website and blog thanks to webmaster, Jill Caren, founder of 2 Dogs Media and a DWAA member
- Increase in writing competition submissions from 619 in 2018 to almost 1,000 in 2019
- New location and offerings at the DWAA Awards and Banquet in 2020
- New contest and banquet chair, Darlene Bryant
- Significant growth in membership
- Streamlined membership process under the direction of Kristin Avery, our Secretary
- New board member, Laurie Williams
- More special award sponsors
- Social media growth and a new Instagram volunteer
- Honoring our members and the DWAA legacy while embracing technology and a digital age to attract more members.
- Selling out the 2020 DWAA Awards and Event Banquet

Roxie

By Janice Biniok



Hmmm... How can I get her to change her focus from inbox to toy box?

For a long time the DWAA banquet was held in New York City. Can you tell us why it is being held in Secaucus and what has been the response?

According to the Contest and Banquet Chair, Darlene Bryant, "My goal is to give the members what they want. I've attended the yearly event many times with my spouse, DWAA President Carol Bryant, and spoken with guests. After hearing what members want, we worked to deliver on those requests."

Members asked, we listened. Cost is a big factor, but we did not want to sacrifice quality. In addition to a lower-priced ticket, attendees received more choices in menu items ala buffet style, an affordably-priced cash bar, and more. The short 5.2-mile jump over to New York City means affordable hotel pricing and parking on the Jersey side. Most notably, the more affordable overall costs are easy on the pocketbook while still pro-

viding the glam, glitz and allure of New York City without the massive crowds, traffic jams and parking concerns.

It's a win-win for everyone. We were a sell-out event a month in advance, and the feedback has been wonderful and very positive.

What are some new changes with the banquet itself?

This year's keynote speakers were Anne Serling and Larry Woodward. Anne spoke about the role of dogs in her life and on the topic of getting published. Larry discussed getting a book published in these modern times.

In terms of the event, the DWAA Hall of Fame Recipient Ida Estep was announced at the event. In addition to a reasonably-priced cash bar, the meal was a scrumptious Italian buffet. Attendees received giveaways, take-home goodies, surprises, and more. Event winners were announced via Twitter.

See BRYANT INTERVIEW pg 37



goodnewsforpets®

***Congratulations to All 2019
Dog Writers Association of America
Award Recipients***

As we celebrate our 20th Anniversary
A special congratulations to
GoodNewsForPets.com Special Award Nominees

“The Dogs of Chernobyl: A Story of Tragedy and Hope”

Paula Fitzsimmons

“Kim and Brian and Lana”

Carol Novello, David Whitman, and David Scott

“Sarah & Domino”

Carol Novello, David Whitman, and David Scott

Sign up for the Goodnewsforpets E-newsletter or follow us:

 @goodnewsforpets

 @goodnewsforpets



Lea-Ann Germinder, Editor & Publisher, member since 2000.

Reporting from the Annual AWARDS BANQUET

DWAA Annual Meeting Minutes

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2020
4 P.M. ET
HOLIDAY INN, SECAUCUS,
NEW JERSEY

Present: Carol Bryant, Maggie Marton, Kristin Avery, Jen Reeder, Marsha Pugh, Susan Willett, Barbara Magera, Susan Ewing, Melissa Kauffman, Laurie Williams, and Steve Griffith.

Meeting was called to order at 4:10.

I. WELCOME AND GENERAL INTRODUCTIONS

- a. Welcome new board member Laurie Williams.
- b. General introductions of all present.

II. PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

- a. Recap of programs instituted
 1. Streamlined process and new website
 2. New DWAA Instagram managed by Hannah Zulueta
 3. Yahoo groups are ending. DWAA will create a new Facebook group in March for members. The group will offer support, resources, and learning opportunities.
 4. New regular blog content with help from Lea-Ann Germinder and Good News For Pets.
- b. Banquet
 1. New Banquet and Contest Chair Darlene Bryant did a fantastic job. She will continue in this role in 2020.

2. New location – Holiday Inn, Secaucus, New Jersey
3. Sold out event! 100 tickets sold.
4. 50/50 Raffle, DWAA swag (coffee mug, magnet and pen), and fun giveaways planned for the banquet.
- c. Writing Contest
 1. \$15,400 in special awards for the 2019 competition.
 2. 938 entries, 38% increase. 609 regular entries and 374 special categories entries.
 3. New award sponsors in 2019
 - a. DOGTV Canine and Enrichment Award - \$500
 - b. Dr. Harvey's Canine Health Award - \$500
 - c. Dogster Health and Wellness Award - \$500
 - d. The Fidose of Reality Dog Blogger Award - \$300
 - e. The Grey Muzzle Organization Award - \$500
 - f. The Pet Candy Award - \$300
 4. Laurie Williams will pass out the awards at the banquet.
 5. All judging scores are saved and available for review.
 6. Ida Estep, DWAA Hall of Fame Inductee.
 7. Larry and Charlene Woodward to receive DWAA Distinguished Service Award.
 8. DWAA needs more judges next year. Melissa Kauffman offered to help find additional judges, as she knows many editors and writers.

9. Barbara Magera suggests displaying award-winning entries at the banquet.
10. Su Ewing suggests adding a member only category next year.
11. Su Ewing suggests that special award sponsors be required to provide winners with a certificate or plaque in addition to a check.

III. VICE PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

- a. Ruff Drafts continues to struggle with content. Email calls for submissions get lost in email.
 1. Jen Reeder suggests inviting specific writers to contribute, maybe new members? Writing in Ruff Drafts is a great way for new writers to get experience.
 2. Barbara Magera suggests inviting dog-related artists to contribute to Ruff Drafts.
 3. Jen also suggests reprinting submissions from Young Writers on the Web in Ruff Drafts
- b. Banquet Program
 1. Merrie did a great job. Maggie Marton documented the process and timeline for future years.

IV. SECRETARY'S REPORT

- a. Membership continues to grow and is especially popular with bloggers and social media influencers.
- b. 70 new members in 2019, compared to 47 in 2018.

TREASURER'S REPORT

by **Marsha Pugh**

1/1/2019 THROUGH 12/31/2019

- c. A few issues with the new website. Some members were left off the roster. Marsha Pugh and Kristin Avery continue to work together and troubleshoot to update membership roster and database.
- d. Melissa Kauffman reports that she encourages new writers to join DWAA. She also suggests outreach to PR folks.
- e. Discussion about creating a bookmark or trifold with DWAA membership benefits.

V. TREASURER'S REPORT

- a. Marsha Pugh passed out the 2019 Treasurer's Report
- b. DWAA finished the year with a balance of \$38,669.
- c. Former Treasurer, Rue Chagoll continues to pay \$190.48 a month towards his debt. Balance as of February 2020 is \$56,340.85.
- d. Discussion of adding additional liability insurance in 2020.
- e. Su Ewing suggests giving members the option of paying the Paypal fee like many other nonprofits.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Executive Committee Officers will remain in place for 2020.
- b. Ida Estep, Esq. will remain as legal counsel.
- c. Steve Griffith of Vizion Group PR gave a brief update on the Therapy Dog Symposium that he presented at the Annual Meeting last year. An endorsement and presence by DWAA would be most welcome. Carol will discuss with Ida Estep.
- d. Carol Bryant thanked Jen Reeder, Marsha Pugh, Maggie Marton, Kristin Avery and Darlene Bryant for all their hard work on behalf of DWAA.

VII. Meeting adjourned at 5:15. 🐾

Description	Total
OPENING BALANCE	\$ 35,630.32
INCOME	63,270.08
Applications	4,366.73
Awards Banquet 2019	4,054.00
Awards Banquet 2020	2,588.74
Contest Entry Fees 2019	14,368.40
Dues	21,256.45
Restitution	2,285.76
Special Award Sponsor	14,350.00
Applications	
EXPENSES	-60,231.23
Accounting	-1,500.00
Bank Charges	-149.75
Banquet Expenses 2019	-10,521.34
Banquet Expenses 2020	-500.00
Computer Services	-18,014.79
Contest Chair 2018 Stipend	-3,000.00
Contest Expenses 2018	-749.72
Contest Expenses 2019	-3,162.00
Contest Supplies 2018	-1,386.35
Insurance	-1,244.00
Misc	-1,750.42
Printing (2019 Newsletter and Program)	-742.46
Special Award Winners	-17,150.00
State Filing Fee	-18.50
Supplies	-21.90
Tax-	-1,820.00
ENDING BALANCE	\$ 38,669.17

Winners

Regular Categories

A. Newspaper Articles and Columns

1. ARTICLE – HEALTH OR GENERAL CARE

- 🏆 "Brachycephalic Dogs"
by Joanne Anderson

2. ARTICLE – BEHAVIOR OR TRAINING

- 🏆 "Working Dogs: Lives Depend On Them" by Christy Powers

3. ARTICLE – RESCUE

- 🏆 "A Decade of Lifesaving: FOTAS Celebrates 10 Years of Service"
by Pam Gleason

4. ARTICLE – ART OR ANY OTHER TOPIC

- 🏆 "Want Your Dog to Win at Westminster?" by Kim Kavin

B. Magazines

5. SINGLE, RELATED, OR ALL-BREED

- 🏆 AKC Family Dog Magazine
by Mara Bovsun

6. ANNUAL, SPECIAL INTEREST, OR ANY OTHER SUBJECT

- 🏆 The Chronicle of the Dog
by Devon Hubbard Sorlie and Chris Guzicki

C. Magazine Articles

7. ARTICLE– HEALTH OR GENERAL CARE

- 🏆 "Hearing With Their Hearts"
by Jen Reeder

8. ARTICLE– BEHAVIOR OR TRAINING

- 🏆 "Survival of theFriendliest?"
by Sue Copeland

9. ARTICLE – RESCUE

- 🏆 "The Gray Face with a Gentle Heart of Gold – Saving A Senior in Kauai"
by Christy Doherty

10. ARTICLE– BREED

- 🏆 "Saving A Vulnerable Breed"
by Joanne Moxham

11. ARTICLE/COLUMN – ART OR ANY OTHER TOPIC

- 🏆 "Maud Earl, First Lady of Dog Painting" by Lisa Peterson

D. Canine or All-Animal Newspapers or Newsletters

12. CANINE OR ALL-ANIMAL NEWSPAPERS OR NEWSLETTERS

- 🏆 Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine DogWatch Newsletter
by Cynthia Foley and Debra M. Eldredge, DVM

E. Canine or All-Animal Newspapers or Newsletters Articles

13. ARTICLE – ANY TOPIC

- 🏆 "Make Weight Loss Happen"
by Kate Basedow
- 🏆 "Understanding Addison's Disease"
by Deb M. Eldredge, DVM

F. Online

14. BLOG OR WEBSITE

- 🏆 Fidos of Reality by Carol Bryant

15. ONLINE MAGAZINE OR ONLINE NEWSLETTER

- 🏆 Speaking of Dogs Newsletter
by Lorraine Houston, Nancy Foran, and Cathy Vandergeest

G. Online Articles or Blog Entries

16. ARTICLE OR BLOG – HEALTH OR GENERAL CARE

- 🏆 "Reflections from a House Call Veterinarian" by Melissa Shapiro

17. ARTICLE OR BLOG – BEHAVIOR OR TRAINING

- 🏆 "8 Easy Fixes For A Fear Free Veterinary Visit For Dogs"
by Carol Bryant

18. ARTICLE OR BLOG – RESCUE

- 🏆 "7 Helpful Tips for Bringing a Stray Puppy or New Dog Into Your Home: The Story of Jake the Hound"
by Julie Buzby and Jenise Carl

19. ARTICLE OR BLOG – ANY OTHER TOPIC

- 🏆 "The Best Pet Subscription Boxes"
by Kaitlyn Wells

H. Graphics

20. SINGLE PHOTO

- 🏆 2019 Westminster Kennel Club
by Olga Forlicz

21. SERIES PHOTOS

- 🏆 Summer Sea Dreamscape
by Emma Kesler

22. SINGLE ILLUSTRATION OR PAINTING

- 🏆 A Merrier Terrier Christmas
by Melanie Feldges

23. SERIES OF ILLUSTRATIONS OR PAINTINGS

- 🏆 Sydney Tours Eufaula by Kay Whaley and Kathy Hamrick
- 🏆 Color Me Canine by Sandy Mesmer

24. POSTERS, CALENDARS, BROCHURES OR PAMPHLETS

- 🏆 Bernese Mountain Dog Calendar 2020 by Dr. Bernd Guenter

I. Humor, Poetry, Short Fiction, Essays/Editorials

25. HUMOR

- 🏆 "7 Things I've Googled Since I Got a Puppy" by Amy Tokic

26. POETRY

- 🏆 "Haiku by Dog: Yearning"
by Susan Willett

27. SHORT FICTION

- 🏆 "Hope's Haven"
by Dorothy Wills-Raftery

28. ESSAYS/EDITORIALS

- 🏆 "What's Wrong With Your Dog?"
by Susan Willett

J. Other Media

29. VIDEO, DVD, OR TV BROADCASTS

- 🏆 "Fit For Life Videos" by Chris Zink and Gayle Watkins

30. RADIO, PODCAST, OR OTHER AUDIO

- 🏆 "The Buzby Dog Podcast at ToeGrips.com" by Julie Buzby

K. Club Publications (National, Regional or Local)

31. MAGAZINE FORMAT

- 🏆 The Courier by Susan Myrick and Team Courier

32. NEWSLETTER FORMAT

- 🏆 Search and Rescue Dog News by Norman Snelling and Sue Wolff

L. Club Publication Articles

33. ARTICLE – ANY TOPIC

- 🏆 "The Most Important Registration" by Caroline Coile

34. REGULAR COLUMN OR SERIES

- 🏆 "The Ancient, Ubiquitous, and Sinister Tick, Parts 1 and 2" by Nancy Melone

M. Club Special Publication

35. CLUB SPECIAL PUBLICATION

- 🏆 Basenji Club of America 2018 Yearbook by Mary Ellen Chaffin and Suzane La Croix

N. Books

36. SINGLE, RELATED, OR ALL-BREED

- 🏆 Empowerment Training for Your Power Dog by Dawn Antoniak-Mitchell

37. RESCUE OR ADOPTION

- 🏆 Second-Chance Dogs: True Stories of the Dogs We Rescue and the Dogs Who Rescue Us by Callie Smith Grant

38. TRAINING OR SPORTS

- 🏆 Play Your Way to Good Manners by Mary Kate Naito and Sarah Westcott

39. BEHAVIOR, HEALTH, OR GENERAL CARE

- 🏆 The Allergic Pet by Deva Khalsa

40. HUMAN ANIMAL BOND

- 🏆 Depression Hates a Moving Target: How Running with My Dog Brought Me Back from the Brink by Nita Sweeney
- 🏆 The Rescuers: Incredible Stories of Life-Saving Dogs by Laura Greaves

41. REFERENCE

- 🏆 He's Only Playing! Meeting, Greeting and Play Between Dogs. What's Ok, What's Not by Sarah Whitehead

42. FICTION, YOUNG ADULT OR HUMOR

- 🏆 A Borrowing Of Bones by Paula Munier

43. CHILDREN

- 🏆 Amazing Dogs with Amazing Jobs by Laura Greaves

Special Award Categories

AKC Club Publication Excellence Award

Sponsored by the American Kennel Club for the best article in a national, regional or local AKC club publication in magazine or newsletter format; includes a plaque and a \$500 cash grant.



- 🏆 The Ancient, Ubiquitous and Sinister Tick, Parts 1 and 2 by Nancy Melone

AKC Reunite Microchip Awareness Award

Sponsored by AKC Reunite for the best article on use of microchips in pet recovery; includes a \$1,000 cash grant.



- 🏆 "Why Every Day Should Be Chip Your Pet Day" by Denise Fleck

AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Public Service Award

Sponsored by the American Kennel Club, awarded to the writer of a print or online feature article that best educates pet owners about responsible dog ownership; includes a plaque and a \$500 cash grant. Article must also be entered in one of the regular contest categories.



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

- 🏆 "Laws for Paws Should Give You Pause" by Elizabeth Anderson Lopez

The AKC Family Dog Award

Sponsored by the American Kennel Club for the best writing (including books, articles and blog posts) about any or all of the good manners programs under the AKC Family Dog umbrella, including AKC Therapy Dog, AKC Trick Dog, AKC Canine Good Citizen, AKC Community Canine, Urban CGC and AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy; includes a \$500 cash grant.



- 🏆 "How Little Therapy Dogs Help Veterans, Children With Special Needs" by Bev Thompson

Continued on next page

The Canine Scribbles Award

Sponsored by Canine Scribbles, LLC, for the best article promoting the reasons to own a purebred canine. Can be fiction or nonfiction article of 1000 to 1500 words and must be published in a print or online publication; includes a \$350 cash grant

Canine Scribbles

🏆 "Lean on Me" by Mara Bovsun

The Captain William Lewis Judy Award

Sponsored by American Legion Post 348 of Brick Township, New Jersey for any form of media that educates the public about the important role our military dogs play in our Armed Forces, including issues affecting their emotional and physical care during their training, active service and retirement. Congratulations to The American Legion on its 100 Years Anniversary; includes a \$350 cash grant.



American Legion
Brick Memorial Post 348

🏆 "The Lieutenant Who Had A Hundred Dogs" by Dusty Rainbolt

The Dogster Health & Wellness Award

Sponsored by Dogster to promote home-care health awareness — identifying health and wellness best practices that dog owners can carry out at home for the dogs they love; includes a \$500 cash grant.



🏆 "CBD Oil & Anxiety" by Elizabeth Anderson Lopez

The DOGTV Canine Enrichment Award

Sponsored by DOGTV, recognizing the best article in print or digital, including blog posts, that discusses canine enrichment and its role to improve a dog's physical and mental health; includes a \$500 cash grant.



🏆 "The Big Book of Tricks for the Best Dog Ever" by Larry Kay and Chris Perondi

Dr. Harvey's Canine Health Award

Sponsored by Dr. Harvey's Fine Health Foods for Companion Animals, recognizes the best online blog post written by a dog blogger that exemplifies good health and wellness for dogs; includes a \$500 cash grant.



Dr. Harvey's

Fine Health Foods
for Companion Animals

🏆 "7 Signs Your Dog Is in Pain" by Julie Buzby

The Fidose of Reality Dog Blogger Award

Sponsored by Darlene and Carol Bryant on behalf of FidoseofReality.com, given to a non-corporate dog blogger who exemplifies the elements of a solid dog product or service review that goes above and beyond the basics; includes a \$300 cash prize and a trophy.



🏆 "The Ultimate Dog Walking Shoes" by Emma Kesler

DWAA Robert H. McKowen Memorial Friends of Rescue Award

🏆 "How Not to Adopt a Dog: Removing Barriers to Pet Adoption" by Maggie Marton

The Fear Free Pets Award

Sponsored by Fear Free, LLC, recognizes the article, book, blog, TV segment, radio spot, video, column or other creative media format that best educates, promotes, or demonstrates the importance and benefits of taking a dog to a Fear Free certified veterinary professional; includes a \$2,000 cash grant and a one-of-a-kind commemorative award.



🏆 "Cooperative Care: Seven Steps to Stress-Free Husbandry" by Deborah Ann Jones

Fear Free Dog Enrichment Award

Sponsored by Fear Free, LLC, for the article, book, blog, TV segment, radio spot, video, column or other creative media formats that best educates, promotes, or demonstrates how enrichment activities (exercise, food puzzles, scent training, etc.) can

benefit a dog's emotional—not just physical—well-being and the role that has in their overall health; includes a \$2,000 cash grant and a one-of-a-kind commemorative award.



- 🏆 "8 Easy Fixes For A Fear Free Veterinary Visit For Dogs" by Carol Bryant

The Good News For Pets Award

Sponsored by GoodNewsForPets.com in celebration of the digital platform's 20th anniversary, awarded to the best digital story – online video, blog post or online article with photography that best demonstrates the bond between people and their canine companions; includes a \$500 grant.



- 🏆 "The Dogs of Chernobyl: A Story of Tragedy and Hope" by Paula Fitzsimmons

The Grey Muzzle Award

Sponsored by The Grey Muzzle Organization, recognizes the best article, book, blog, TV segment, radio spot, video, column or other creative media format that best educates, promotes, or demonstrates to the public the plight of at-risk senior dogs; includes a \$500 cash prize and a commemorative plaque.



- 🏆 The Sibe Vibe "Caring For A Senior Dog" Part 1 by Dorothy Wills-Raftery and Robert Forto

The Harrison Stephens Inspirational Feature Award

Sponsored by Sally and Tom Reeder in honor of Harrison Stephens, a newspaper editor who wrote thought-provoking features marked by journalistic integrity and humor until his death just before his 100th birthday. This award recognizes a feature article highlighting the human-canine bond; includes a \$300 grant.



- 🏆 "The Healing Power of Faith: A Very Special Therapy Dog Helps One Child At A Time" by Kristin Avery

James Colasanti, Jr. Poetry Award

- 🏆 "Lifeline" by Debra Lampert-Rudman

DWAA Junior Writer Award

Sponsored by children's books author Karen Petit, recognizes writers under 18 years of age who exhibit talent, resourcefulness, dedication and integrity in their writing about dogs and dog-related topics; includes a \$1,000 cash grant, DWAA Maxwell Medallion, and lapel pin.

Thanks to DWAA's Young Writers on the Web program, there was an influx of entries this year and FOUR awards were selected, one for each age group. Each winner received \$250 for each age grouping:

- Category One: Ages 7-9
- Category Two: Ages 10-12
- Category Three: Ages 13-14
- Category Four: Ages 15-17

AGES 7-9:

- 🏆 "Aussieca vs. Corgiland" by Theo Bernstein

AGES 10-12:

- 🏆 "A Promise Unbroken" by Jason Kimberly

AGES 13-14:

- 🏆 "Chain Reaction" by Kathryn Prerost

AGES 15-17

- 🏆 "The Pooch Project" by Kendle Frank

The PSI Professional Pet Care Award

Sponsored by Pet Sitters International (PSI), recognized the entry that best educates pet owners about the benefits of using professional pet sitters; includes a \$300 cash prize.



- 🏆 "Choosing Safe, Reliable Pet Care" by Melissa Shapiro

The Rio Award

Sponsored by Jen Reeder and Bryan Fryklund in honor of their beloved Labrador retriever mix, Rio, recognizes an article, book or essay that profiles a dog who changed someone's life in a profoundly positive way; includes a \$300 cash prize.



Continued on next page

🏆 "The Rescuers: Incredible Stories of Life-Saving Dogs" by Laura Greaves

The Sleepypod Pet Safety Award

Sponsored by Sleepypod, recognizes the best article or book that shares tips for pet safety during travel and/or anecdotes of dogs helped by owners who take safety precautions; includes a \$500 cash grant.



🏆 "Pets and Hurricanes: 10 Things You Need to Know Before Evacuating With Pets" by Julie Buzby

The Vet Candy Award

The Vet Candy Award recognizes the writer with the most inspiring story about a veterinarian or veterinary professional in a newsletter, magazine, or blog post format; includes \$300 and a plaque.



🏆 "Reflections from a House Call Veterinarian" by Melissa Shapiro

The Pet Candy Award

The Pet Candy Award recognizes the writer with the most inspiring story about a pet lover in a newsletter, magazine, or blog post format. The story must be about anyone other than the author; includes a \$300 and a plaque.



🏆 "Service Dog Helps 7-Year-Old Boy Prepare For His 10th Surgery" by Jen Reeder

The Walter R. Fletcher Memorial Award

Sponsored by The Westminster Kennel Club in memory of legendary dog show reporter Walter Fletcher, awarded to the reporter who best exemplifies continued press coverage of dog shows in America. The writer must have written a bylined article in a print or online general interest publication about a dog show (or shows); includes \$300 and reserved seating in the Walter Fletcher Memorial Chair for both nights of the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. The chair is located at the end of the front row, in the working press section, on the arena floor of Madison Square Garden.



🏆 Denise Yates, The Welsh Terrier Record Holders

Dogwise Best Book Award

Sponsored by Dogwise Publishing, recognizing the author of the best book. The winner is chosen by the president of DWAA from the winners of all the book categories; includes a \$500 cash grant.



🏆 Paula Munier, A Borrowing of Bones

DWAA Distinguished Service Award

Sponsored by the American Kennel Club, this award honors extraordinary achievement and communications excellence, recognizing the person who, by word, deed, exemplary conduct, public communication and professional excellence, best promotes the interest of the sport of dogs; includes a plaque and a \$1,000 cash grant.



🏆 Larry and Charlene Woodward

DWAA Hall of Fame Inductee



🏆 Ida Estep, Esq.

THANK YOU

Special thanks to the DWAA 2019 Judges. Special thanks to DWAA Banquet and Contest Chair, Darlene Bryant, for all her hard work in overseeing the competition and all of its moving parts.

MR. B., THERAPIST

By **Michael Hoffman, Dr.AD**

Have you ever watched your dog perform magic? Watch carefully, and one day you will. Dogs' spirits have evolved more soulfully than humans' in the last fifty thousand years. They offer devotion, trust, and compassion while we wage constant war on ourselves.

I saw my first dog miracle when I brought a golden-eyed Rhodesian Ridgeback puppy named Mr. B. into my therapy practice. He taught me more about healing in one day than years of doctoral study ever did.

Patients welcome the comfort of my casual home office, and Mr. B.'s huge puppy feet, droopy ears, and bony knees add smiles to the atmosphere. Without any clock training, Mr. B. soon started meeting people at the door at their appointment time. He sat patiently wagging his tail when a patient, Susan, knocked on the door at 11:00 a.m. on Monday. He remembered that another patient, Steven, would arrive at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday. By age one, he mastered more than 20 separate appointment times.

Mr. B. assumed nobody would object if he sprawled out next to them on the big leather sofa, and he was right. Word of mouth spread fast, and prospective patients began asking if I was the therapist with the big brown dog.

Mr. B. displayed an uncanny sensitivity to human moods that biologist Rupert Sheldrake calls "morphic resonance" in his book *Dogs That Know When Their Masters Are Coming Home*. Mr. B.'s telepathic capacity for compassion appeared instinctively one day

while I was counseling John, an elderly man paralyzed by grief over his wife Anne's painful pancreatic cancer death. The couple had been clients for many months, struggling to cope with her hopeless diagnosis.

John asked the same unanswerable question over and over.

"It keeps hurting! My heart's breaking in pieces. Can't you make it stop?"

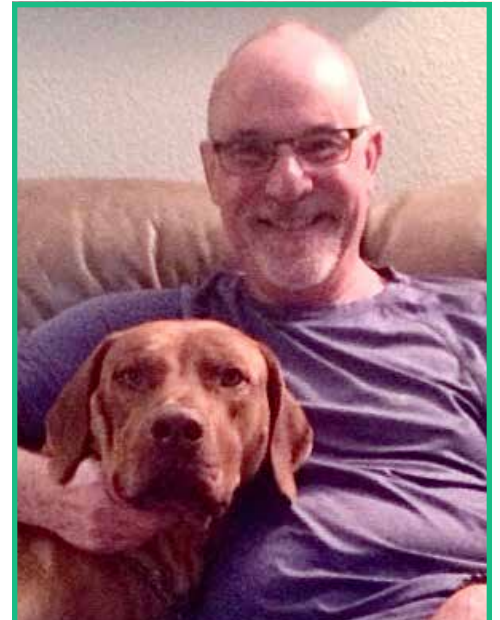
John and Mr. B. were already bonded from the long months of the couple's therapy. Mr. B. matched John's slow steps from the door to the couch, leaning in to touch his shoulder to John's leg for support. The instant John settled in, Mr. B. laid his head and shoulders across John's lap. John sighed, rubbed the top of Mr. B.'s head, and looked up at me with watery eyes. It happened every time.

I remain quiet when people struggle with a pain they can barely articulate. Silence allows them to search for the defining language hidden in their hearts. On this day, tears flooded John's face. He reached out and hugged Mr. B.'s head to his chest with trembling hands. Patient, therapist and dog sat silently as minutes ticked away; two, three, four, five . . .

At the ten-minute mark, John spoke to Mr. B. as if I was not even there.

"Can you tell me, Mr. B.," he whispered, "when my heart will stop breaking?"

Mr. B. lifted his head, gazed into John's soul with his deep, golden eyes and started hound talking. His throat music sounded like an ancient shaman's healing prayer. It started with a barely audible bass whine deep in Mr.



Michael Hoffman and Mr. B.

B.'s chest, rose steadily in tone, pitch and movement, like a spiritual revival tongue speech, carrying a message from a higher place. Mr. B. kept his eyes riveted on John as his voice danced through every note in the harmonic scale. The serenade ended with a soft woof, and he licked John's tears away.

Then Mr. B. said, clear as a bell, "It's over now."

At least that's what John and I think we heard.

Was it true, or were we simply mesmerized? Facts felt irrelevant. Mr. B.'s song had caused a shift in John's heart, and he smiled for the first time in five months. John's grief transformed into acceptance without my psychological intervention and without struggle. Mr. B. did it with the gentle grace of a true healer.

As John left, he shook my hand and said, "You're a fine therapist, Michael, but Mr. B. could write a book." 🐾

Dog Sculpture Artist Cindy Koehring

By **Barbara E. Magera MD, PharmD, MMM**

The first time I saw her pottery I was impressed. This was no ordinary clay dog bowl. This was a bowl with a purpose, made with love. Her lovely bowls ensure those long beautiful ears remain dry. On some of her fancier bowls, she even molds three feet onto the bottom of her bowls so they will not 'dance' around the room when your thirsty canine gets a drink. Cindy's bowls are sturdy and a work of art. A generous bowl holding six cups shows sculptures of a repeating Cavalier profile. As a proficient artist, her simple strokes capture the essence of the Cavalier. The long flowing full ears, the large eyes and the distinctive muzzle immediately profile a Cavalier.

In the early 1970s, she made hobby ceramics of Christmas themes that she sold at local art fairs. Ceramics offered a soothing venue to express her creativity. In a college art course, she learned how to hand throw pottery. Her first pieces included a wine glass and hand thrown "high fired" mug. At the time, she was working in management for a stained glass company. With her pottery skills, she introduced a technique for firing decals onto stained glass which the firm sold as Sun Catchers. Her career in stained glass came to an abrupt halt when the owner fortuitously won the California lottery and disbanded the business.

In the 1990s at a Cavalier show, Cindy saw a spaniel bowl crafted by artist Rosanne Cleveland King. Roseanne's bowls were made of grey stoneware with Cavalier images painted in blue.

Her bowls were so popular that often a struggle ensued over a purchase.



Upon Roseanne's retirement, Cindy realized the interest of the Cavalier community for spaniel bowls. Cindy owned several show Cavaliers and saw their gorgeous ears soaked when drinking water from usual doggie bowls. She worked to design a bowl that protects Cavalier ears and was artistically interesting.

Cindy's dream of owning a Cavalier bred in the UK fueled her passion for designing spaniel bowls. Initially, she planned to contract with a profession-

al potter to make her newly designed bowls; however, she was not satisfied with his final product. Determined, she refined her skills as a potter and eventually made her own bowls using her own designs.

Nearly 20 years later, after her first encounter with hand thrown pottery, she enrolled in an advanced pottery course and perfected the skill of "centering". In Cindy's experience, "if you cannot center, you can't do much of anything on a pottery wheel". Centering is a pottery

term that defines the perfect symmetry of the piece. Centering is what makes a bowl 'round.' After mastering this technique, Cindy refined color detail in her bowls. Through years of participating in various Cavalier competitive events, Cindy realized her discriminating eye for Cavalier structure.

Cindy's design of Cavalier bowls in a three-dimensional relief accurately depicts the breed standard. Her detailed clay bowls show a Cavalier gaiting with a perfect topline, full muzzle, optimal tail set and gay personality.

Cindy diligently works to improve her craft. Early in her career, she recalls frustration because the consistency of the clay was hard and difficult to mold. After three years of struggling with the technical aspects of the clay, she finally contacted the manufacturer. She discovered that because she purchased her clay from a distributor, the clay was old and dry. The manufacturer suggested hydrating the clay which increased its pliability. After this simple maneuver, she finally crafted the spaniel bowl she designed years earlier.

Cindy's designs in three dimensions are as authentic to the Cavalier breed standard as possible. In the last few years, Cindy relates she was 'set on fire' with creativity, determination and productivity. For the 2013 Nationals, Cindy crafted more products for a single show than ever before. Presently, her most prized works are three-dimensional Cavalier bowls, lamps, mugs and urns.

Cindy also designs bowls for other spaniel breeds including Charlie's, Cockers and Springers. Even though dogs gain access to water with their tongue, some dogs still drench their entire muzzle in the water bowl when drinking. Her "Charlie bowls" are designed to accommodate the naturally shorter muzzle of this brachycephalic breed.



Cindy owned several show Cavaliers and saw their gorgeous ears soaked when drinking water from usual doggie bowls. She worked to design a bowl that protects Cavalier ears and was artistically interesting.

Cindy's bowls are dishwasher safe and she recommends running a bowl through a dishwasher now and then. Her bowls, of course, are lead free and free of toxic paint or chemicals. Her bowls are fired several times to endure a long and clean finish. Many of her patrons, myself included, attest that her bowls maintain their "like new" finish and color despite extensive use and washings.

Cindy attends as many art shows and seminars as possible to broaden her knowledge and artistic abilities. She states that she can express her artistic creativity better in clay than she can on paper or in any other medium. Although not trained formally in art, she has a natural instinct for dog art.

Recently, Cindy has increased the number and variety of pottery pieces

which she states has "improved her technical abilities as a potter. My work is much more detailed and improved in artistic quality. With each new design, I learn something new." Cindy credits her popularity and success because she focuses on one venue namely Spaniel art. Presently, she works collaboratively with artists from other venues to expand the possibilities of her dog artwork. With her goal of protecting the lovely ears of the breed, Cindy also designs snoods for long-eared canines. 🐾

Cindy Koehring (Westwind) offers her handcrafted bowls and snoods through SpanielBowls.com

Barbara E. Magera MD, PharmD, MMM (Caracaleeb) is a Cavalier fancier who lives and practices medicine in Charleston, South Carolina.



nosesandtoes.com

Spotlight on DWAA 2020 Event Pet Photographer

By **Carol Bryant**

DWAA PRESIDENT

Each year, the Dog Writers Association of America hosts its annual banquet and awards event in February. The 2020 event was a complete success and sold out over a month in advance.

This year, the assignment for photographing the DWAA event was given to Angela Schneider, owner and founder of Noses & Toes Pet Photography. I sat down to turn the lens on Angela so our dog writing community can get to know her. Here's the scoop.

All About Angela

DWAA: Hi Angela. Thanks for sitting down with us for this interview. Tell us about yourself and how long you've been a professional photographer.

Angela Schneider (AS): I launched Noses & Toes Pet Photography in Spokane, Washington in January of 2018 to escape a miserable, soul-sucking marketing career.

DWAA: Do you focus solely on pets as your subjects?

AS: Yes. Your pet is always the star of your session. I offer sessions of just your dog, you and your dog, or you can

bring the whole family, if you want. But the dog is the star. Always. All ways. My ultimate goal for each session, though, is to get that one magical moment, the sweet instant where I get to see that amazing connection you have with your dog.

It is, more often than not, found in the non-posed moments, the seconds where you're just loving your dog and I'm not telling you "OK, do this, now this, and this." I think of a recent session where a young fellow was reunited with his Great Pyrenees that was lost to him for three years. I asked him to look

into Wrangler's eyes but they ended up touching foreheads and ... well, tears are streaming down my face as I write this because I was so privileged to witness that moment and document it for Ryland.

DWAA: What made you want to get involved with photographing pets?

AS: I've been a photographer for a lifetime. I had a camera in my hands as a teenager and I still have the 3x3 prints of my rough collie, Princess. I tried to take pictures of my family but mostly, they just wanted to flip me off.

So there was my dog, ready, willing and able. She even posed! My first career was sports writing in small-town Canada, and I often had to take my own pictures to accompany my stories. I shot a lot of hockey (naturally, Canada), baseball, soccer, rugby, and other sports. I abandoned my film gear in the early 2000s when I started working for a big-city daily and had a staff of photographers who were much, much, better than me. I came back into photography, though, shortly after Shep came into my life.

He took me out of my Ford Mustang, high heels and big city and put me into an SUV, hiking boots and the mountains. And when you're in the most beautiful place in the world, the Alberta Rockies, with the most beautiful dog in the world, you can't not want a camera in my hand. When Shep died and Bella came into my life, I wanted to get better and document her life and adventures. A friend said, "you should" and I thought, "come on, that's not a thing" but I started researching pet photography and here I am.

On Being A DWAA Member

DWAA: Are you a DWAA member and what do you enjoy about your



Angela and Bella

membership? How has DWAA been a benefit to you?

AS: I am a new member so I have yet to truly investigate what is available to me. I found DWAA by happenstance, probably on Facebook, learned about the awards competition and entered. I was a finalist in three categories but

didn't win any. The experience made me want to become more involved and start working toward getting my own Maxwell.

DWAA: As the official photographer for this year's writing competition and banquet, what did you enjoy? Was this

Continued on next page



Continued from previous page

the first time you attended a DWAA event?

AS: It was my first time attending a DWAA event. I loved seeing the camaraderie and passion among such a variety of content creators. We are an incredibly diverse group and yet we have common bonds: to create and to love our animals.

Documenting the DWAA banquet was a real step outside my comfort zone. I wasn't intending on being at the event until the opportunity to photograph it was presented. Event photography isn't quite as easy as it may sound and it presents a unique set of challenges. I certainly appreciate the opportunity and intend to get better at that subgenre of the overall craft of photography.

About Her Pets

DWAA: What pets share your life at present?

AS: Bella turns six on March 24. She is a Maremma Sheepdog, a breed to which my soul is inextricably tied. The Maremma Sheepdog has a natural instinct to protect/guardian and personality traits of stubbornness, aloofness, defiance, and independence. I love it in so many ways. My first dog as an adult was a rescue Maremma. Shep was my soulmate. Bella is my best friend.

DWAA: Just for fun, what's your favorite dog-themed book?

AS: Oooh, good question. I have to go with *For the Love of a Dog* by Patricia B. McConnell, Ph.D. I was first drawn to Patricia's blog for her work in training Great Pyrenees, a breed that's cousin to the Maremma. I have many

dog-eared pages in my copy of *For the Love of a Dog* but the one piece of writing that has always held with me is at the very end.

"This emotional connection between us isn't trivial. We humans may be brilliant we may be special, but we are still connected to the rest of life. No one reminds us of that better than our dogs. ... Dogs are our bridge—our connection to who we really are, and most tellingly, who we want to be." Patricia reminds me how special is the bond we share with our dogs, and reminds me why the work I do is so important. Our dogs aren't with us long enough, and we should honor the legacy of their love and their stories with precious images of their lives with us.



Get In Touch

DWAA: If folks wanted to hire you to photograph their pet, do you travel? How far? What services do you offer? Where can they find more information?

AS: I generally serve Eastern Washington and North Idaho; however – and much to my husband’s chagrin – I would absolutely travel for sessions with ex-

penses paid. My goal is to ensure pet lovers like us have beautiful images that document their lives with us. My specialty is making your pup the star with a beautiful landscape background. Some photographers love their studio work but I like to say that I couldn’t possibly build a better studio than Mother Nature has already created! 🐾

Visit NosesandToes.com to get in touch with Angela and view her portfolio.

Angela's official photos have been combined with images from Carol Bryant, DWAA's current President, as well as some from Christine Aiello and John Marton. Visit the DWAA Facebook page to view the album.

MEMBER REPORTS

FROM THE WKC

Jack's Magical Breath

By **Gail Diedrichsen**

The Dog Writers Association of America Awards Banquet was extraordinary. I wondered if I had traveled through another dimension whose boundary was that of my imagination. Maybe it was because Rod Serling's daughter, Anne Serling, introduced her book, *As I Knew Him: My Dad, Rod Serling?* Or, perhaps it was Jack?

No eerie music played in my head and I wasn't pulled into a downward moving spiral. My visual world hadn't altered to black and white like a 1960 television episode of "The Twilight Zone" either. I admit, however, I couldn't take my eyes off the black and white cocker spaniel. His owner, Debi Lampert-Rudman and her husband, Richard, had joined our table not knowing what was in store.

Thinking back, I was about Jack's age when I became hooked on the show "The Twilight Zone," with host Rod Serling. Bolt, who was under our table at Debi's feet, reminded me of my beloved childhood pet cocker, Taffy, who was my best friend. Whatever the reason,





something supernatural happened at our table that evening and followed us to the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. The unexplainable seemed to be swirling around Jack.

So, who is Jack? He's Kathryn Pre-rost's kid brother. Kathryn, awarded a Maxwell, celebrated with her entire family, and nobody was more excited for her than Jack. In fact, without hesitation, he'd predicted her win long before her family planned their trip to the Awards Banquet. He was so proud of his

big sis, we thought he'd burst. Sitting with Jack and Kathryn made an already special event that much more fun.

The magic began when each of us received a numbered gold chocolate coin. Our evening's host, Darlene Bryant, asked for a volunteer to choose the lucky number. Jack's hand sprang up faster than the speed of light. As Jack left us to join Darlene at the podium, we all joked, insisting that he should draw one of our numbers. Jack didn't disappoint us. He drew the number on Debi's

gold coin and we cheered. Surely, it was her lucky night. She'd already received the James Colasanti Jr. Poetry Award, and winning the coin raffle scored her a ticket to next year's banquet.

Jack was already Kathryn and Debi's lucky charm. So, when it was time to pick a number for the split-the-pot raffle, Bernie Slupik insisted Jack come to her side of the table and blow on her tickets. Could Jack do it again? Our jaws dropped! Absolutely! Our table was convinced Jack had truly harnessed cosmic energy.

As our fun evening drew to a close, we learned that Debi and Bolt would be competing in the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. Upon request, Jack blew his magical breath on Bolt. Looking up at the young boy, Bolt seemed to absorb Jack's positive vibes. We promised to be ringside cheerleaders for Debi and Bolt during their competition.

Arriving at The Piers on Tuesday morning, we found Bolt in the benched area where he was being fully coiffed. Jack gave Bolt a reassuring pet, along with a final puff of his breath before the cocker spaniel entered the ring.

We watched closely as the cockers and their anxious handlers lined up. As the dogs strutted their stuff around the ring, Judge Michael Faulkner examined each contender with a discerning eye. Which cocker would be awarded the coveted ribbon? Our favored cocker had some tough competition - they were ALL so pretty! We held our breath, exhaling only after the judge's definitive finger pointed in Bolt's direction! We applauded wildly, watching Bolt, GCH, CH Topaz Palm Beach Play-boy, CD, BN, RM, CGCA, TKE, (a.k.a. Bolt) as he was named Grand Champion Select Dog. Debi's proud husband, Richard, said, "Debi will be thrilled, this is a BIG deal!" Moving toward the ring, we

See JACK pg 33

MEMBER REPORTS

FROM THE WKC

Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show and a Year of Surprises

By **Ted Slupik**

Attending the Westminster Kennel Club (WKC) Dog Show for the second year in a row was another great experience. We were ready for the Piers and Madison Square Garden, which is where the events were being held, and thought we had become experts. This thought could not be further from the truth. After all, attending only two of 144 shows does not make you a pro.

I attended again with my wife and a friend. This year, we also had a new amazing author with us, along with her parents and brother. The new author, Kathryn Prerost, won the 2019 Dog Writers of America (DWAA) Junior Author Award in the 13-14-year-old category. In 2019, we also attended the Westminster Dog Show with an award-winning junior writer. Attending two years in a row with two different junior winners was a treat.

The focus and logistics of this year's show were very different. Westminster judging is usually held during the day on Mondays and Tuesdays at the Piers 92 and 94, with the Best In Group (BIG) and Best In Show (BIS) events held later in the day at Madison Square Garden (the Garden). Earlier in the year, a ship



Bill McFadden

rammed into Pier 92, making it unsafe to be occupied. So, the schedule was adjusted and the daytime dog show activity space was cut in half. An additional day was added. However, the loss of the Pier 92 space was not made up by adding only one day to the schedule.

There were quite a few more dog sur-

prises regarding the winners and losers. The biggest surprise was that an almost six-year-old Golden Retriever, Hillock's Jack Daniel (nicknamed Daniel) made it to the final seven dogs competing in BIS. In the 144-year history of the competition, a Golden Retriever had never advanced so far. Daniel did not win BIS



Kathryn meeting Dr. Pol



Kathryn with Maxwell Medal

or even reserve. The audience was very disappointed. The next surprise was that Bono, a Havanese and 2019 runner up who was predicted to take top honors in 2020, did not win BIS as predicted. The winner of the 2020 WKC competition was the Standard Poodle, Siba. She might be a great dog, but the preferred winner of the crowd was Daniel.

Other than the competition upsets, Kathryn and I had several pleasant unexpected surprises. We got to meet some celebrities, including Dr. Jan Pol from the long-running hit show, "The Amazing Dr. Pol." He and his wife, Diane, were at the show for about two hours one day. Dr. Pol was very kind to Kathryn and took the time to discuss the young author's writing and contest award, despite a line of over 100 people waiting to meet him.

Another interesting encounter occurred at the Tick Tock Café in our hotel, the New Yorker. On Monday evening, after the first night's show at the Garden, we ran into a few additional show celebrities:

- Winner of the herding group, Tyler Crady, who handled a Sheltie nicknamed Conrad.
- Bono's handler, Kathy McFadden, as she and Bono prepared to compete in BIS Tuesday night.
- Bill McFadden, handler of the 2018 Bichon Frise BIS dog nicknamed Flynn and was the overall winner of five Best in Show Awards.

Kathryn mustered up the courage to talk to Tyler and congratulate him. He was impressed with Kathryn's award and introduced her to the McFaddens. Bill McFadden was very personable and answered all of the young girl's inquiries. This was the highlight of her evening and was yet another unexpected surprise.

Unlike last year, there were far fewer senior dogs entered in the show and most of the dogs that made it to Best in Show (BIS) this year were only four or five years old. Last year's show had a concentration of seniors (age seven or older) with four making it to the final seven. This year, no seniors appeared in the BIS ring. With the exception of Bono's han-

dler, none of last year's winning handlers made it to the final seven BIS.

This made me realize how much this year's winners will most likely become next year's spectators. It has to be emotionally difficult on handlers and owners to come so close one year and so far away the next.

In fact, a single dog has won BIS two years in a row only five times in the show's history. The last dog to accomplish this feat was an English Springer Spaniel, Chinoe's Adament James (nicknamed D.J.) in 1970 and 1971. It will probably never happen again. After winning BIS, most dogs are more valuable as retirees than contenders. Fame is fleeting and in an instant, the glory of winning Best Dog out of 2,500 entrants disappears; a good reminder of the importance of a single moment in time and the need to enjoy each moment while it happens.

I believe that there is a great parable to be told about the comparison of the dog show competition and the history of the Roman Empire. Romans were highly

See SURPRISES pg 33

The Legend of Ramachandran

By **Kate J. Kuligowski**

"We wondered...of course we would never know...if Copper felt Randy and I had let him down. Neither of us was with him when he passed, both thousands of miles away in Japan." Tina Carter's guilt-ridden voice was slow and soft. Copper, 11-year-old Golden, was staying at our Buffalo, NY, home with our son, Jeff while Randy collaborated with former colleagues of RERF (Radiation Effects Research Foundation of Hiroshima).

Upon returning home one January afternoon, Jeff, a med student at the University of Buffalo, was surprised that his childhood bud since 2007, Copper, was not prancing by the door to greet him, eager to go for a walk. "Where was he?" Finally, Jeff found him lying behind the bed, listless. Copper refused water and food and was not responsive to Jeff, his voice or pets. Knowing that he needed help, he phoned his sister Nona, a PhD student at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Nona was concerned enough to jump in her Honda and drive 375 miles to meet Jeff at the emergency clinic in Buffalo, where Copper was being tested and evaluated.

By the next day, Copper, who had been such a positive force in the lives of the Carter family for over a decade, no longer could walk. The veterinarian cited thyroid failure. It was the humane thing to put him to sleep; he could not recover; he was in agony. Copper left our world that afternoon.

Upon their return from Japan, Tina and Randy were shocked at the stark silence when they came back home. Tina described their house as "desolate,

devoid of Copper's smile and wag-a-tail greeting, his cheerful bark and his love. This Golden was our spirit-lifter, our happy-go-lucky playmate. The void he left was beyond a doubt, emotionally and physically painful."

Toward the end of the year, both Tina and Randy agreed that the only way to fill the humongous hole left in their lives by Copper's death was to "for the love of me, adopt another dog", as urged by Blemie O'Neill ("The Last Will and Testament of a Very Distinguished Dog" by Eugene O'Neill, 1940). Of course there was no doubt; they all agreed their new housemate must be a Golden, so Jeff agreed to scour all the daily pet ads in the area. Nona quickly disagreed. She was adamant. "No, we know better than to contribute to all the puppy farms in our area. Don't you think that we should instead consider all of those Golden retrievers who are throwaways, no longer, if ever loved, left in shelters and rescues, hoping to be adopted into a forever, loving home? Copper would want that." She certainly made her point, so we changed our focus. We would check out the rescues and shelters from New York to Pennsylvania. After months of searching, all grew impatient.

One bitter cold, windy Saturday November afternoon, Tina read an ad for Golden puppies, priced below what she had previously read. The kicker was that the seller lived within 30 minutes of the Carter's home. So, with high hopes, off she went, planning to come home with a new furry member of the family. What a surprise she would have for Randy, who was once again consulting in Japan. But when she arrived at the address listed (located in a poorly-kept mobile home



park), she caught sight of the Golden mom and dad, emaciated with listless coats, and the cardboard box which evidently held the puppies advertised. Although she was worried this was not what she had in mind (she wanted a healthy pup), she decided to look. She greeted and petted the two parents, tied on short ropes to the small, sagging front porch. Three cute pups, runny eyes and noses, bounced around in a bent-up cardboard box, filthy with several days of feces and piles of yellowish rags reeking with urine.

Tina was disappointed and devastated. "I just turned around and left." Tears rolled down her eyes on her drive home and thought to myself. "Those pups have little hope to live a happy, healthy life... Sadly, they will probably end up like their parents, being used...being used to make money for their owners. They didn't appear to be inside pets, and they certainly were not being fed much... they were just breeders. How sad!"

Jeff was now living in New York City as a resident in med school. He was busy and we didn't see much of him. However, the next evening Jeff and his girlfriend, Antia, surprised me with a visit. "I've brought some things home that I don't have the room for in my small quarters." He placed a small bag on the floor and pulled out a puppy, a Golden puppy. "Surprise, Mom!"

It wasn't just any Golden puppy. It was the very same Golden puppy, the runt of the litter, I had left with his littermates at the mobile home the day before.

"Mom, I know I should have checked with you first, but Antia and I saw this ad in the paper. It was near your house, so we drove on over. This guy is precious. Even though he came from a breeder, this is really a rescue. His home was not a good one; it was filthy and his mom and dad looked sick. I couldn't just drive away and dodge his lack of a healthy, happy



future. I would like to have taken them all, there were three puppies, but at least we rescued one," he smiled. "I knew you and Dad would give him the best."

Tears streamed continually down Tina's cheeks as she tightly clutched the squirming pup and gazed into his big brown innocent eyes. It was hard to hear everything she was whispering to the pup, but she suddenly stopped and turned to Jeff, no longer whispering, but in a clear voice, she said. "I am so very proud to have a son like you, Jeff."

After minutes more of this cuddling and whispering, Tina kissed the pup on the head and returned it to the kennel Jeff had carried him home in. "What a wonderful surprise! Let's take a photo and send it to your dad. Does Nona know?"

"We can call her now. She will be delighted that this little rescue, whose future was once bleak, now has a home that will love and care for him for all of his years."

"Any ideas for a name?" I queried.

Pensive expressions clouded all faces until Jeff suggested, "How about asking Tim? As a follower of Hare Krishna, a branch of the Hindu religion, he would be familiar with some good names, don't you think?"

So, before they texted Nona or Randy, they phoned Tim to seek his input. A student at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Tim was absolutely ecstatic to hear of their new adoption. He thought about it for a while before he suggested, "Ramachandran. Rama in the Hindi glossary is a Sanskrit word indicating bravery and loyalty to family. Call her Rami, okay? I can hardly wait to meet her."

This wonderful Golden's name would take on a deeper, more meaningful connotation for our family after Tim was killed in an automobile accident in 2012.

After texting Nona, Tim and Randy with photos and the pup's new name,

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Tina settled in with her new companion. For years, an adored, well-behaved and active Rami went everywhere with Tina and with Randy when he was not working overseas. On one home visit, Jeff pointed out that Rami and his toys, of which he was extremely protective, took up more room on their king bed than did the adults. In concert, his parents raised their eyebrows and questioned, "So?"

In 2016, when Tina and Randy were honored with Fulbright Grants, it was important that they live in India for months. After interviewing all the well-recommended house sitters, Priscella was chosen to care for and spoil Rami. During their second month overseas, Tina became distressed when, after three days, their sitter was not responding to her texts, emails or phone calls. Without hesitation, she contacted both children, Jeff and Nona, and Cody, their trusted teen neighbor who always took Rami on walks which he termed "play days." Cody's mother immediately replied that Cody was worried that Rami was losing a lot of weight. He is much too thin. Something is amiss.

Nona now resided just a mile away in Buffalo, and immediately drove to her parent's. She texted, "Mom and Dad, Priscella would not allow me on the property, so I spoke with Cody. He still takes her on daily walks. So when he does, later this afternoon, he will bring Rami to me and we will go to the veterinarian."

The next news from Nona read, "We are taking Rami to the vet as I text."

Thirty minutes later, the third text from Nona appeared. "Dr. Waddell's exam revealed that Rami had lost 25% of his weight; he was being starved. Dr. Waddell gave me Rami's medications and his special food and now I'm taking him home with me."

A long sigh and tears of relief were Tina's and Randy's reactions. They were not surprised to learn, the following day, that Priscella had not used the hundreds of dollars they gave her to pay the utility bills (shut downs were being threatened), and several valuable items in the home were not to be found. But they smiled because the most important treasure inside the home was now out of danger and being nursed back to health by their dependable and protective daughter.

The next time that Tina and Randy took a trip, they made sure Rami was staying with Nona and husband. They were preparing for a trip to Guatemala to visit their son, Jeff, who was in Guatemala for two weeks, tending to the victims of the 2018 eruption of volcano Fuego, which caught the surrounding villages by surprise. The number of affected residents exceeded 1.7 million.

But the week before their trip, Randy pointed out to Tina a startling June 17 article in the New York Times, citing another horrifying happening involving the U.S. Border Patrol separating children from their own mothers. This article referred to a traumatized Guatemalan, Elsa Ortiz, who was separated from her 8-year-old son, Antony, at the Mexico/McAllen, Texas border. The June 17th story revealed that Antony was sent to a shelter for migrant children and his mother was put on a plane and deported back to Guatemala.

"Let's find her and help her," stated Randy. "We are going to be in Guatemala next week anyway."

After searching, locating her, finding an interpreter and taking the time to earn her trust, Randy and Tina proved that their altruistic streak would never be quieted. Randy contacted several reporters and two attorneys, Ricardo de Ando and Michael Avenatti. These dynamic individuals left no stone un-

turned in helping Elsa reunite with her son. And that red-letter date occurred three months later in Guatemala City as Elsa was still not allowed in the United States. Now, through the financial backing and professional guidance of Randy and Tina Carter, Elsa's life and that of Antony have made a 360-degree turn. This enterprising and humanitarian husband-wife team started a small import business in order to give Elsa a job as their buyer of handmade fabrics and beaded products. Stateside, the Carters arrange online and Facebook sales of these hundreds of handmade creations made from Guatemalan fabrics, including vibrantly colored woven dog leashes, for which their beloved Rami served as their handsome model.

When in public, Rami's perfect demeanor was often an invitation for other people to become dog owners. And in his 13 years at home with the Carters, he has taught all three grandchildren to cherish and respect dogs. What a guy! This smart, responsive and loving Golden has continually proved to be more than deserving of his name, Ramachandran. 🐾

.....

Editor's Letter

Continued from pg 3

ful that ours is a profession designed to bring back some of the joy and innocence that we have lost. Much has been said, and rightly so, about the valiant efforts of our first responders. When this crisis has passed, I truly believe that the kindness of our animals will also be heralded as one of the things that kept us moving forward as a society.

I tip my hat to all of you for your efforts to bring smiles when they are most needed. 🐾

I Got Ya Back

By **Linda Saraco**

Holding the puppy, I felt an instant connection when his oversized paws pressed firmly against my back. This pup had also wrapped his paws around my heart.

The shelter's adoption counselor informed me that a family had already selected him. There was however a slight chance I could still adopt him since they had not made their final decision. It was worth the wait.

After an anxiety-filled hour, I saw the family leaving the shelter carrying the pup, and my heart sank. When the woman approached, I prepared for the worst. Then she said brightly, "Here's your dog!" My eyes gushed with tears, and I embraced him, again feeling his paws securely against my back.

I was thankful to have him, but not

nearly as grateful as I would be two years later after a skiing accident. As a result of the accident, I developed seizures that caused me to collapse into unconsciousness. When I came to, I would always find Dominic on top of me, restricting my arms and legs, preventing me from hurting myself. At the same time, he would bark in my face. It was his barking that my mind would follow back to consciousness.

Dominic was a natural-born seizure detection and assistance dog. Since I've had so many grand mal seizures, doctors said it was not likely I would survive, but Dominic made sure I did. His instincts were astounding.

I have been well for years now and



Dominic

had the good fortune to spend over 14 years with Dominic. I can't begin to express the amount of admiration, appreciation, and love I have for Dominic. He saved my life; he's my hero. 🐾

Jack

Continued from pg 27

offered our congratulations. Jack's lucky breath had done it again!

As dog show novices, we didn't quite understand the significance of Bolt's big win. Debi explained, "I'm his breeder/owner/handler. Most of the other handlers are professionals. We were up against the number one#1 cocker in the US and Europe, as well as the number one#1 in Canada. Regardless, we won Grand Champion Select Dog."

Jack had aligned all the stars perfectly. Debi insists, "We were so lucky we happened by chance to sit at Jack's table, and ooh...we'll need Jack again next year!"

Flaunting an all-knowing devilish smile with a thumbs up, Jack stopped to strike a pose with the Westminster Kennel Club's shiny trophy. Could we be cheering for Debi and Bolt at The Garden next year? If our imaginations are free to enter zones without boundaries, anything is possible! 🐾

Surprises

Continued from pg 29

competitive and believed competitive winning was the pinnacle of achievement. Dog handlers and dogs are probably just as competitive. Ironically, competitive fame is the most fleeting because the competition never ends. After great victories during wars, Romans held a celebration for the victorious commander, which was called a triumph. Flowers and lavish honors were given the winning commander, the "top dog". It is said that for part of this celebration, started by Julius Caesar, someone was to follow behind the victorious commander in the parade, whispering in his ear, reminding him that all glory and fame is fleeting.

As this year's dog show ended, owners and handlers were already thinking about a rematch next year. Then, when the rematch happens, no one will remember who won last year.

As the Romans knew, "sic transit gloria mundi," *All glory is fleeting.* 🐾

My Dog's Purpose

By **Katherine Pina**

It was October 12, 2015, an ordinary day. My puppy Winnie and I were bored sitting around the apartment with nothing to do. Winnie was an 8-month-old Cocker Spaniel, and I knew it was time to get her socialized a bit since all she did was bark at passing dogs on our walks. So I decided to start taking her to the local dog park a couple times a week.

We loaded up the car and headed across town. As we pulled up, Winnie started whimpering since she knew where we were. She hopped out of the car excited to sniff and play. It was a cool afternoon, and there were probably 20 small- to medium-sized pups on the side of the park designated for small dogs.

We entered the park and found a chair in the corner. Winnie didn't leave my side. She was nervous about approaching other dogs, not knowing what to expect. Then I noticed there was one big dog, a black and white spotted English Pointer. Out of nowhere, Winnie ran away from my side and halted by the big dog. Their tails shook, and the play started. They were running around chasing each other! It was the first time my dog had ever willingly played with another dog, let alone a big one.

The Pointer's owner, David, happened to be sitting about 10 feet away from me. He started to tell me how she was such a gentle giant that she wouldn't go on the big side of the dog park, she'd only play on the small side since she was so timid and liked small dogs. This was his first time bringing her to the park in a few years; he also felt that she needed some doggy friends.



David and I chatted for a while about our dogs, and I definitely felt a spark. We shook hands, my knees were shaking, and we went on our (respective) merry way. We didn't exchange numbers or any social media. It was up to fate. After that night, I kept trying to go back to the dog park on the same day and the same time to see if he was there. But either work, weather, or other factors got in the way. I let it go.

Then, three months later, on January 26, 2016, we finally ran into each other again. We played it cool, excited to see one another and got caught up on life. Our dogs, Winnie and Blue, clearly remembered each other, as they instantly began running around. David ended up asking me to hang out at the local dog

beach. Turns out we would spend the better part of our relationship there.

We started dating, of course, doing everything together with our dogs by our side. Come to find out, David had called his friend that first night we met and told him he found The One. His friend told him to go back the same day and time, just as I had. But again, factors got in the way.

Fast forward two and a half years and we were engaged. We were married in August 2019 with our immediate family, and the pups holding the rings on their collars. You could call it fate; I know it was meant to be. And I know our dog's purpose was to bring us together, to live happily ever after. Now we are a family. 🐾

SURPRISE READING

By **Gail C. Parker**

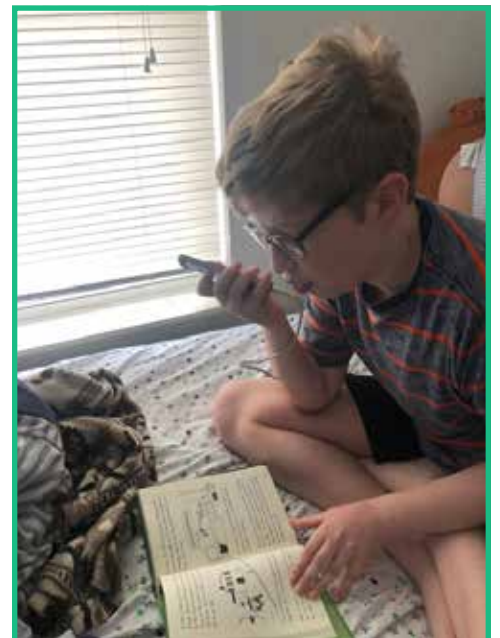
Before I share my story, I would like to give you a little bit of a background. This will help you understand why my experience was such a surprise. First of all, I am not, as my friend Marie says, a “kid” person. Most of the time, I have no idea how to interact with them. I never babysat, didn’t run to beat everyone in the office to hold a co-worker’s newborn, etc. That’s not to say I dislike kids, I just don’t know what to do with them. My husband has three grandchildren from his previous marriage. As totally animal-loving as I am, that is how leery of animals they are. It amazes his family that Carl is so into our dog and cats. He had no choice, we were a package deal.

Last Christmas, we got together with everyone. I was sitting at the table

chatting with his daughter. His grandson, Dylan, happened to be sitting at the end of the table between us. His daughter mentioned that Dylan used to enjoy reading but he no longer did. Daisy Mae, my Irish Setter, and I had just qualified for the AKC’s Breed Ambassador Program. I was looking for a victim, er, candidate, for the reading part of the program. I was not very optimistic, but I turned to Dylan and asked, “Dylan would you read to my Daisy?” Without hesitation he said, “Yes!” The look of shock on his mother’s face, knowing how he felt about animals, was priceless. They live rather far from us so I suggested we do it over the telephone. We left it at that, with the idea of making arrangements for reading later in the New Year.

We all know what happened in 2020 and how our lives changed. Schools closed, but Dylan’s mother works in the office of a hospital, so she had to go to work. Her children were home and probably bored. One day I received an email asking when I wanted Dylan to read to Daisy. We made plans for a day and time that would work for everyone. On the designated day I called their apartment. Dylan picked “Diary of a Wimpy Kid” to read, and he read to Daisy over the phone. The highlight of this adventure was to see Daisy lying on her bed beside me, actually listening attentively to Dylan read. My husband took pictures at our end and Dylan’s siblings took pictures at his house. We all enjoyed the experience. I mailed Dylan a certificate of appreciation.

Who knew a pandemic would find me spending time with a little boy, who was not at ease around animals, reading to my dog? It was a surprising and rewarding experience for us all. I guess I am never too old to learn. 🐾



Dog Sitting

and the Joys of a Wagging Tail

By **Leslie Brown**

I offer dog sitting services through Rover, an app that lets dog owners find the best situation for their pet. I've been doing this for about a year, and while every dog is different, they all experience some degree of separation anxiety. It usually lasts a day or two and then they adjust. However, some dogs remain confused and fearful for longer.

Recently, I cared for Juice, a pit mix who was depressed and anxious even after a week. He wouldn't eat unless I stood next to him, he wasn't excited about treats, and he was afraid to be out in the yard by himself. All he did was sleep. I tried petting him, I talked to him, and I even resorted to bribery, offering treats and toys. But nothing. Not even a slight wag of his tail.

Then, *in an instant*, the day before he was to go home, something changed. I found him out of his bed in the morning. He ate heartily, gobbled down a treat, and wagged his tail! Juice decided this was a "best situation," even though he was without his people.

When his people came to retrieve him, they found him to be happy, joyful even, full of tail wags and silly barks. He was happy and so were they. Their "four paws" endorsement helped me engage more clients through Rover. I wish I knew



what turned Juice around. I'd bottle it, call it 'Happy Dog', and sell it. 🐾

President's Column

Continued from pg 2

Finally, I am reminded of a story **Gilda Radner** shared at the end of her autobiography, *It's Always Something*. Radner tells the story of her childhood nanny, Dibby, and Dibby's dog.

"When I was little, Dibby told me a story about her cousin who had a dog – just a mutt – and the dog was pregnant. I don't know how long dogs are pregnant, but she was due to have her puppies in about a week.

She was out in the yard one day and got in the way of the lawnmower and her

two back legs got cut off. They rushed her to the vet who said, "I can sew her up, or you can put her to sleep if you want. But the puppies are OK – she'll be able to deliver the puppies. Dibby's cousin said, "Keep her alive." So the vet sewed up her backside and over the next week that dog learned how to walk.

She didn't spend any time worrying; she just learned to walk by taking two steps in the front and flipping up her backside and then taking two more steps and flipping up her backside again. She gave birth to six little puppies, all in perfect health. She nursed them and then

weaned them. And when they learned to walk, they all walked like her."

I've always loved the will, tenacity, and strength of that story. Each of us faces moments that define us. Sometimes we face moments that unite us. That time is now and I invite you to sit, stay, write, educate, reflect, and have faith that together we'll weather this storm. 🐾

Yours in all things canine,

Carol Bryant

DWAA PRESIDENT

Bryant Interview

Continued from pg 10

The DWAA presidency is a two-year term. What changes are in store for next year?

Over the next year, the executive team will continue its mission to grow the organization, add a private Facebook group as a member benefit, and continue to improve the influence and offerings of DWAA as a whole. When we hand off the torch to the next round of officers, we will feel confident that we've made our mark and made a difference.

You are a blogger and have written a fantastic book. Can you tell us about it?

Yes! When I first started my pet blogging and social media journey well over a decade ago, I went looking for a book on the topic but came up empty-handed.

Looking back, I can't imagine how different my life would be if I had a thorough resource to guide me on my pet blogging journey, avoid pitfalls, and show me how to make money with it.

Fast forward to the present day, and how times have changed. I am the co-author of a brand-new comprehensive book, *Pet Blogging for Love & Money*. My co-author is Maggie Marton, who is the Vice President of DWAA.

Our book gives readers the most comprehensive, up-to-date, action-oriented information needed to start and run a viral pet blog and its social media properties. Our book focuses on long-term success. We know that by following the steps in our book, anyone with an interest in having their pet, pet-themed business, or love of pets online can benefit.

Maggie and I are successful pet blog-

gers who each spent a decade developing our own blogs and brands while working for the largest pet-specific influencer network in the world. We spearheaded campaigns that drove growth, brand awareness, and revenue. We channeled all our knowledge into this one resource. It is available in paperback and e-book form on Amazon.com.

What is the most important tip you can give new dog writers entering the field?

DWAA includes, but is not limited to, writers, authors, journalists, publicists, bloggers, social media influencers, photographers, illustrators, and on-air personalities.

For new dog writers and dog bloggers, my biggest piece of advice is to plan for success but be willing to adapt and change as needed. Looking back over the past decade, while dog magazines have evolved, changed, or closed their doors, others have emerged, digital has a stronghold, and everyone wants a piece of the social media pie.

Don't spread yourself too thin and try to learn and do it all. There's a time and a place for everything, so recharge your body and mind even more than recharging a phone. Play with your dog and be in the moment. Don't be afraid to ask questions and seek new opportunities. Make suggestions, try new things, and attend the DWAA event each year. There's a lot to be said for IRL (in real life) networking!

What is the biggest benefit of joining DWAA?

The networking, exchange of information, and being a part of an organization with roots steeped in advocacy for its members. Since taking office as the President of DWAA in February of

2019, this is a question I hear more and more. In these ever-changing digital times, is being a paying DWAA worthwhile? In short, yes, absolutely, it pays to be a DWAA member.

For example, I've attended the awards banquet for more than a decade. I exchanged business cards and had face-to-face meetings with book publishers, editors, and more. While social media is awesome and has many benefits, nothing comes close to meeting someone and having a conversation in person. I've pitched and landed assignments, grown as a writer, expanded as a dog blogger, and took steps to advance myself through the benefits of DWAA membership.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

I'd love for your readers to stay connected with DWAA across social media:

Facebook: [Dog Writers Association of America](#)

Instagram [@dogwritersassociation](#)
Twitter [@DWAA_US](#)

Follow the DWAA team of officers on our respective blogs by visiting:

Carol Bryant, President: [FidoseofReality.com](#)

Maggie Marton, Vice President:
[OhMyDogBlog.com](#)

Kristin Avery, Secretary:
[MyRescuedLife.com](#)

In closing, thank you, Lea-Ann, for your ardent support of DWAA over the years. As Goodnewsforpets.com celebrates its 20th year, your dedication to the pet industry and DWAA members shines! DWAA believes in your mission and sends hearty congratulations on your double decade of success. Thanks for always supporting and sponsoring DWAA and its members. We look forward to the next 20 years and beyond!

Thank you, Carol Bryant! 🐾



Kristin Avery, Secretary
PO Box 7052
Evanston, IL 60204

Print Your Membership Card

Thank you for your membership!

As an added benefit of membership in the Dog Writers Association of America, we are providing this membership card to assist you in receiving press courtesies. 🐾

