

**Cat Christine Ellen (Chris McGlothlin)** was born in September 1968 in Fort Ord, California, the eldest of two children. Her parents had each just returned from Vietnam—her father, as a Sgt in the Army, and her mother serving a year as a Red Cross volunteer (<http://www.crescentwing.com/donutdollie/>). They moved within a few months back to her father's home town, Akron Ohio, where she and her sister grew up in North Hill. As a youth, Chris pursued a variety of musical and theatre hobbies, performing at Goodyear Theatre in *Sound of Music* at age 12, helping perform in the melodramas and medicine shows at the Yankee Peddler Colonial Days, singing with youth choirs and playing hand bells at High Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), playing flute, piccolo, jazz piano, and xylophone in junior high and high school groups, performing in three high school musicals, and several All-City bands. In 1985, her Mom moved her and her sister to Southern California, where they completed high school in Santa Clarita. In 1986, Chris marched in the Rose Parade in Pasadena, CA in January, the Rose Festival in Portland, OR in June, and with the Velvet Knights Drum and Bugle Corps, at the DCI Finals in Madison, WI in August.



In Fall 1986, she went to the University of California, Santa Barbara, where there were so many “Chris” students in the dorms, that everyone got a new nickname, and she adopted the name “Cat” for the first time. In college, Cat was active in the local InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (GCF), and toured as a vocalist with the Continentals in Fall 1990 (Tour B, Bahamas). Also while at UCSB, she was first introduced to the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) in the Shire of the Isles, now a very prominent hobby. She earned a degree in Linguistics, and a wide-variety of business skills in odd jobs such as Inter-Library Loans, as a note taker for both Associated Students and the Disabled Students Program, working for non-profits like United Way Santa Barbara and Direct Relief International, among other office jobs. Since college, Cat has worked in academic publishing, tech support, training and courseware development for software companies, and in a variety of analyst and training positions on a Navy and Marine Corps contract at three bases in Southern California. And when not working or doing any of her other hobbies, Cat can be found occasionally studying yet another language (just for fun), such as Spanish, Italian, Russian, American Sign Language (ASL), Mandarin, or her latest passion for Hebrew.

Married in 1996, divorced in 2000, Cat is still quite proud of her former step-children. Post-divorce, she finally made the name change complete, taking “Cat” as her legal first name, and moving all the other names “over one to the right.” In 1999, Cat first joined up with some musicians in Los Angeles, to form the band Forever Twelve (<http://www.forevertwelve.com>). They’ve self-published two CDs, on which Cat is the featured lead singer, as well as occasional lyricist and instrumentalist. They’ve performed a handful of live venues, including the international progressive music festival in Mexico, Baja Prog, in 2004. They’re currently recording their third CD.



The rest of Cat’s spare time is spent actively pursuing “history through hands-on participation” through the SCA (<http://www.sca.org>), where she’s served as a local branch officer for over 14 years, in such offices as heraldry, the arts, president, newcomer’s, newsletter, and website development (<http://www.catellen.com/resume/>). On the weekends you can find her throughout Southern California, at events, teaching spinning (from fiber to finished yarn), singing and composing, or helping with calligraphy. She’s also pursuing photography, her continuing language studies, fiber arts, and trying to be the best auntie possible to her growing collection of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

(October 2007)