

Dear Beacon Society,

I am pleased and honored to be the recipient of funding from the Jan Stauber Grant Program for my Sherlock Week of activities for children and adults in Keene, NH. It took place at the Keene Public Library, who co-sponsored the event along with the Edge Ensemble Theatre company, my scion the Monadnock Sherlockians, and of course with funding from the Beacon Society. The weeklong events took place from July 15-24th, 2022.

The events began Friday July 15th with an interactive film of the animated family-friendly film *Sherlock Gnomes*. Here, children and their families were given props and words to say at particular times, and of course dance as well. A good time was had by all, and children got to keep magnifying glasses so they can search like Sherlock. The event was sponsored by the Keene Public Library.

On Monday July 18th, a lecture was given on Sherlock Holmes in Pop Culture entitled (Not So) Elementary, My Dear Watson: The Popularity of Sherlock Holmes by Dr. Ann McClellan, Associate Provost at Plymouth State University. Her talk was informative and thought provoking as she explored the impact of Sherlock Holmes images in our society, and around the world. Ann gave this talk as part of the NH Humanities Council and was sponsored by the Keene Public Library. NH resident David Beffa-Negrini also displayed his fine collection of Sherlock Holmes-related games from around the world. One game was from the 1880's!

On Tuesday July 19th, Waldorf teacher, Monica Marshall, and Director of Education and Community outreach at Keene's Colonial Theatre, Vicky Pittman, along with myself presented an interactive dramatic reading of the *Attack of the Violet Vampire*, a children's Sherlock Holmes story by Derrick Belanger. Derrick and his brother Brian of Belanger Books were in attendance and signed and gave out some of their books aimed at children, which were purchased with Jan Stauber grant money. The dramatic reading, complete with costumes, was followed by a John Watson Birthday party, complete with plastic Bowler hats and stick-on mustaches, and of course cupcakes with mustache rings. The event was sponsored by the Monadnock Sherlockians, which provided the costumes and cupcakes, and the Beacon Society, which provided the books.

Also on Tuesday, a mystery puppet show was provided by Keene Public Library. Derrick and Brian Belanger were in attendance and signed and gave out their books to children in attendance. Leftover cupcakes were also provided to students in attendance. Later that evening, the library sponsored a Sherlock Holmes trivia night.

On Wednesday, July 20th, Derrick Belanger of Belanger Books gave his talk How to Think Like Sherlock Holmes, where he worked with students to develop characters and plot for a new

Sherlock Holmes story. Derrick, with parent permission, took the names of the children in attendance and will give them author credit when he completes the story and publishes it in a future Belanger book. Each child will receive a free copy of the completed story. Derrick signed and gave out copies of his children's Sherlock Holmes books to those in attendance. Sponsored by the Beacon Society. That evening the library showed the film *Mr. Holmes* free of charge.

On Thursday July 21st, I, along with Vicky Pittman, ran a Sherlock Holmes Forensics Lab, where children moved among stations of fingerprinting, invisible ink pens with secret messages to decode and create, and solving ciphers and puzzles. Students also tried their hand at decoding messages written in the Dancing Men substitution cipher. Students in attendance got to keep their fingerprint cards, an invisible ink pen, a magnifying glass, and copies of puzzle and ciphers to decode, sponsored by The Beacon Society. Children in attendance were also given copies of Belanger Children's books, sponsored by the Jan Stauber Grant.

On Thursday evening through Sunday July 24th, adults and children were invited to watch free of charge, four radio plays, complete with Foley sound effects, singers and a violinist that featured four Sherlock Holmes pastiches: Derrick Belanger's *Yes, Virginia there is a Sherlock Holmes*, Mark Twain's *Sherlock Holmes Goes West*, Vincent Starrett's *The Unique Hamlet*, and August Derleth's *The Adventure of the Late Mr. Faversham*. This event was sponsored by the Keene Public Library, the Edge Ensemble Theatre Company, and The Monadnock Sherlockians. These plays were filmed and will be soon available for viewing on the Edge Ensemble's YouTube Channel.

The goal of Sherlock Week was to to build awareness of and foster an appreciation for Arthur Conan Doyle and his Sherlock Holmes stories to local youth and adults, and I believe we have accomplished this goal. The forty books purchased through Jan Stauber grant money were given out to children in attendance of the week's events. Children also got to hear stories and watch a film with Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson characters. They learned about how Sherlock Holmes goes about solving crimes and puzzles, and even got a chance to write their own Sherlock Holmes story. Children and parents were enthusiastic about the events of Sherlock week and expressed that they enjoyed themselves. Five adults expressed an interest in joining the Monadnock Sherlockians scion. The Sherlock Holmes radio plays were well attended and enjoyed by all.

Thank you so much to the Beacon Society and to the Jan Stauber Grant Committee for your support in making this project a reality. Your funds went to purchase 40 books from Belanger books which were distributed during Sherlock week, and to purchase the printing of the posters for the radio plays, and for the purchase of the forensic lab materials including fingerprinting sets, puzzle and ciphers books, and invisible ink pens and paper. I have attached photos from the events, including programs of the week's events. The library did not allow the photography

of children, without the permission of parents. The material and books supplied by the Beacon Society were on display throughout the week.

With much appreciation,

Anna Behrens

Leader, Monadnock Sherlockian Scion

Keene, NH