

"Light-houses, my boy! Beacons of the future! Capsules with hundreds of bright little seeds in each, out of which will spring the wiser, better England of the future."

THE BEACON SOCIETY

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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From the Desk of the Headlight

Greetings and Happy New Year to all the friends of the Beacon Society,

We conducted our Annual Meeting during the 2018 Baker Street Irregulars (BSI) festivities in New York City. The meeting was a very well attended and informative gathering, and I would like to thank everyone who took the time to attend. The Minutes of the meeting will be posted soon on our Website (www.beaconsociety.com).



A couple of high-lights from the meeting.

- Marino Alvarez announced Rob Nunn as the winner of the 2017 Beacon Award, with Honourable Mentions going to Derrick Belanger and Hanna Al-Kowski. Hanna was at the meeting to accept her Certificate. Marino retired after 6-years as the Chair of the Awards Committee, and Art Renkwitz, BSI, was introduced as Marino's replacement.
- On behalf of the Grants Committee, Chrys Kegley reported that 23 Jan Stauber Grants were awarded in 2017. The application period for 2018 is now open.
- Beth Gallego, on behalf of the Programs Committee, announced that the Committee will be working closely with the Grants Committee and the Communication Committee to expand and keep current the 'Resources' link on the Website.
- On behalf of the Fundraising Committee, Crystal Noll reported Donation Request letters and envelopes were distributed in the attendee packets at the various functions through the BSI weekend festivities. Crystal's Committee will be looking at some creative, unexplored fundraising campaigns in the coming year.
- On behalf of the Communications Committee, Steve Mason reports that the website is receiving over 1,000 hits per week and that the addition of the Fortescue Scholarship program has been very popular. Steve also maintains the Society's Facebook page.
- Shannon Carlisle, our Junior Sherlockian Society Chair, reports their website is receiving over 4,000 hits per month.



I would like to:

- thank David McCallister for funding the printing and mailing of the Donation Request letters and envelopes;
- thank Steve Mason for funding the Website fees and the printing & mailing of the Beacon Society Fliers that were in the BSI Attendee packets (and probably a bunch of other miscellaneous expenses he doesn't tell us about);
- thank and congratulate Marino Alvarez for his service as Awards Chair for the past 6 years;
- welcome Art Renkwitz as our new Awards Program Chair;
- thank and congratulate Bill Mason for his service as Headlight over the last 3-years;
- congratulate our own Shannon Carlisle as a recipient of her Investiture into the Baker Street Irregulars as "Beacons of the Future";
- thank, in particular, the efforts of Steve Mason and his Communication Committee. Steve has brought the society into the limelight of the modern internet world and
- thank the veteran members of the Beacon Society (you know who you are) who have encouraged and guided me through the beginning of our new administration.



For those of you who may not be familiar with the history of Beacon Society, I would refer you to our Website.

Our fundamental focus is bringing Sherlock Holmes into the classroom to generate interest in the great Master among our youth.

READ



Long before the Beacon Society existed, Jan Stauber was in classrooms doing just that. She was a pioneer in this endeavor and set the bar for others who followed.

Jan was the recipient of the Society's first Beacon Award and at her untimely passing, the Society named our Grant Program after her, the Jan Stauber Grant Program.

You can read more about Jan at the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes Website. <https://ash-nyc.com/links-and-more/jan-stauber/>

Vital to our goal of promoting Sherlock Holmes to our youth and keeping green the memory of the Master is our financial situation.

Bursur (Treasurer) Dick Kitts reported a balance of \$23,337 in the Treasury at the date of our meeting. At the surface, that appears healthy.

However, this past year we only received donations from 23 individuals or organizations. The donations just barely covered the outlay for the Jan Stauber Grants.

Thankfully, and we are very grateful, some of the donations were very generous.

One of our most loyal and generous donors over the years, Al Gregory, was extremely disappointed at the poor showing of the number of donors.

With the increase in recognition and exposure of our Society thanks to the efforts of our Communications Committee, we can expect an increase in the number of Grant applications this coming year and in the future.

We cannot rely solely on the generosity of a few forever.

I've been asked: 'How can I help the Society?'

Obviously, one can help by making a Tax-Deductible donation to the Society. Donations can be made by check or PAYPAL (check the Website for details).

Another way that one may help is by spreading the word to educators, librarians and other educational institutions of our Grant and Beacon Award Programs and the Junior Sherlockian Society.

There are many Sherlockians, if asked: "What is important to you as a Sherlockian?" would answer - "Keeping Green the Memory of the Master!"

THAT IS WHAT THE BEACON SOCIETY DOES!

So spread the word to your fellow Sherlockians to sign-up to our mailing list through the Website (the Yahoo Group page has been discontinued) and to consider a financial donation within their means to the Society.

That's enough for now and future newsletters will not be quite as long. But I am very excited starting out with this outstanding Board of Directors and Committee members, that I couldn't help getting a little long-winded.

Keeping green the memory of the Master,

I remain,

Denny Dobry, BSI

Headlight

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me (dendobry@ptd.net).