

"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
The Not-So-Quarterly Newsletter (In our world, being irregular is a virtue)
VOLUME 4, NUMBER 1 – February, 2020



From the Desk of the Headlight

Following our Annual General Meeting last month in New York, the Beacon Society's programs are in full swing.

THE SUSAN Z. DIAMOND BEACON AWARD

Each year the Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award is given to an individual, scion society, or organization that has made a significant contribution to exposing young people to the study of Sherlock Holmes stories.



Nominees may be of any profession, but they must have made a significant contribution to exposing young people to the stories of Sherlock Holmes.

At our Annual Meeting, the Awards Committee Chaired by Art Renkwitz, assisted by Shannon Carlisle, Debbie Clark, Francine Kitts and Peggy Purdue announced **Derrick Belanger** as the recipient of the 2019 *Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award*.

Derrick was nominated by Mark Levy, BSI, for Derrick's remarkable accomplishments in bringing Sherlock Holmes to our youth.

Derrick is a High School Special Education teacher in Thornton, Colorado.

Among his accomplishments, Derrick wrote and published the *MacDougall Twin* series to introduce young readers to Sherlock Holmes through the eyes of the ten-year-old twin detectives.

He spearheaded an effort to have students write pastiches that were critiqued and revised, and then published along those stories written by professional writers in anthology entitled *The Irregular Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*.

"*How to Write a Pastiche*" is among Derrick's works that appear on the Junior Sherlockian Society's Website.

In addition, Derrick developed mystery units that were designed to stimulate the young minds of elementary school students.

There is no doubt that Derrick is deserving of this year's *Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award*.

An applicant may either be nominated by another person or may apply himself/herself. A group or scion society may also be nominated.

A project(s) must be completed before applying for the Beacon Award.

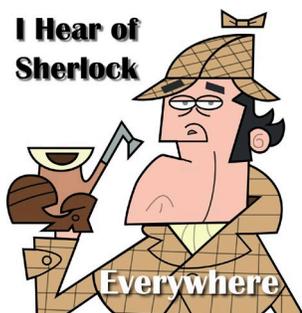
Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award nominations may be submitted all year before the deadline of November 15th to be considered for the current year.

Go to our Website for the application form and additional details.

www.beaconsociety.com.

PODCASTS

I'm sure most of you are familiar with the *I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere (IHOSE)* site and their podcasts.



Steve Mason and myself were interviewed by their hosts, Scott Monty and Burt Wolder, featuring the Beacon Society.

You can hear us praise the efforts of our Society at:
<https://www.ihearofsherlock.com/2019/12/episode-183-beacon-society.html#.XIR1Qi2ZMRU>

And I'm equally certain that many of you have spent much money at www.abeBooks.com buying Sherlock Holmes books. But you didn't know that they produced podcasts as well. Richard Davies caught up with me and this was the result:

<https://cast.rocks/hosting/11770/feeds/IVUTQ.html?ep=FERA2GWZ-JRWWMI> found at our Website.

THE R. JOEL SENTER SR. MEMORIAL PRIZE ESSAY CONTEST

The January 31st deadline for submittal for the 2020 R. Joel Senter Sr. Memorial Prize Essay Contest has been reached, and I am happy to report that we received essays in all three classes of the competition: 4-6 Grade, 7-9 grade and 10-12 grade.

The Awards Committee is busy reviewing the applicates efforts and winners will be announced by the end of March.

If you recall Carolyn Senter approached the Beacon Society to setup and fund a program that would be an instrument through which her husband Joel's contribution to the Sherlockian world would be remembered.

The Board of Directors has voted to fund the program going forward.

The Program Committee has agreed to review the Application Booklets in the coming months to improve the functionality of the documents with the goal of encouraging more students to participate.

The contest provides cash awards and is for students in the 4th to 12th grades.

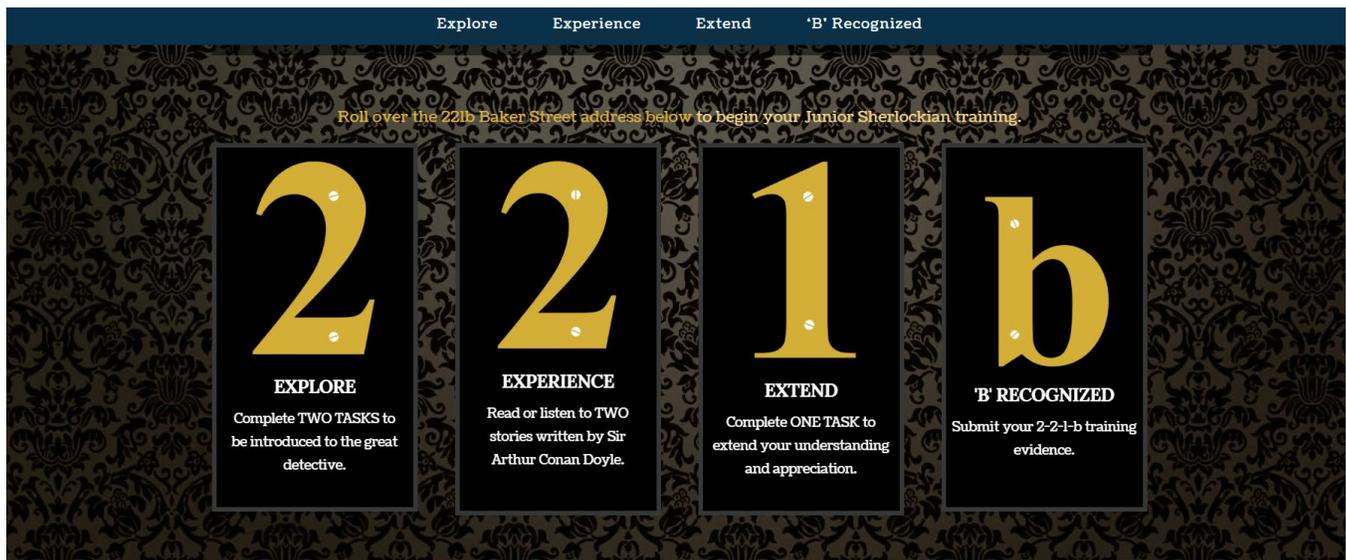
Watch the website for details for applying in the current year at www.beaconsociety.com.



"Yes, Frank. I'm sure you can make two hundred words out of just twenty six letters."

THE JUNIOR SHERLOCKIAN SOCIETY

Now in their 4th year of operation, the Junior Sherlockian Society continues to bring youth to Sherlock Holmes.



Chair Shannon Carlisle reposted at the Annual Meeting that the Junior Sherlockian Society Website is averaging around 4500 hits/month. That's right! 4500 per month.

Thanks to Shannon and her Committee, the JSS continues to be one of the crown jewels of the Beacon Society.

We only had one disappointment this year. We were denied one of Shannon's enthusiastic presentations at the Annual Meeting.

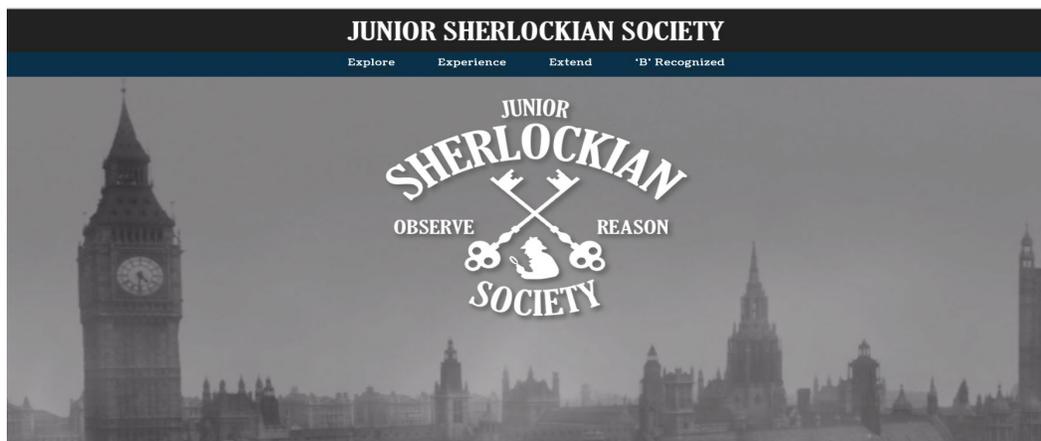
She was busy signing copies of *Education Never Ends*, a new publication of the Baker Street Irregulars Press.

Shannon is one of the authors and the Beacon Society has obtained a number of copies to be awarded to successful Jan Stauber Grant applicants, the Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award winners and other worthy recipients.

Copies of the book are available for sale at <https://bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/books/>.

It is a great read for Sherlockians and Sherlockian educators.

Encourage your young ones to checkout the Society at:



www.juniorsherlockian.com

THE 2020 JAN STAUBER GRANTS

The Board of Directors announced at the Annual Meeting the increase to the Jan Stauber Grant allocation from \$600 to \$750.

Applications for the 2020 Grants are now being accepted until May 31, 2020, in fact,



Committee Chair, Cindy Brown reports that one application has already been approved by the Committee – an excellent start, indeed!

We all know some teachers or librarians among our family, friends and in our local communities.

We can expand our JSG applications by personally reaching out to them.

Run off copies of the application and deliver them in person.

School administrations dictate a teacher's curriculum.

If you can create an opportunity to meet with an administrator or attend a School Board meeting, you may be able to convince them of the merits of applying for a Grant.

The Grant application information for the 2020 Jan Stauber Grant program can be found at our Website www.beaconsociety.com.

The Grantees of the 2019 Jan Stauber Grant program can also be found at our Website.

LIBRARY DISPLAY CASE PROGRAM

Communications Chair, Steve Mason, has been busy readying materials to be included the Library Display Case **'Care-Packages'**.

Putting together the program will be a joint effort of the Grant, Program and Communications Committees, and spearheaded by Steve.

Once the program is ready to launch, all you would have to do is to stop by your local library and ask, "Can we help you setup a display promoting Sherlock Holmes?"



I can't imagine that you would be turned down!

Details on the logistics of signing up for a library display and getting materials to them will be forthcoming.

Steve is shooting to promote and start accepting applications by the end of April.

Watch you email for the announcement and instructions.

YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

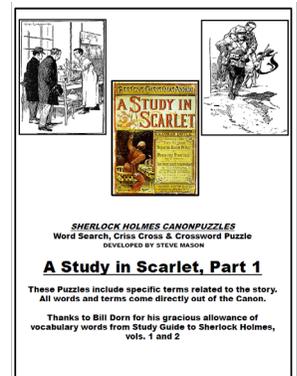
Just a reminder, we cannot continue our work of *'Keeping Green the Memory of the Master'* without your continued financial support.



Your donations are tax deductible.

SHERLOCKIAN PUZZLES

Do you enjoy doing puzzles. If so, we have something new for you. Each week, we will be posting a series of three puzzles based on one of the Canonical stories on our website.



Each set of puzzles will include a Word Search (with mystery quote), a Kriss-Kross, and a crossword puzzle. The crossword puzzle will only include words taken from the Canon itself.

The puzzles are .pdf fillable files, so you can actually download them and fill them in directly from your computer – no need to print it out – unless you like the pencil/paper method.

And if you get stumped, the answers are included in the back of each set.

Thanks to all of you who continue to support the Beacon Society!

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)

