

"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 2 – June, 2020



From the Desk of the Headlight

*"Here, though the world explode, these two survive,
And it is always eighteen ninety-five."*

Vincent Starrett's timeless words from "221B" certainly ring true in today's world, and the Sherlockian world survives as evident by the numerous on-line gatherings and events. And the Beacon Society's activities have not been curtailed as you will see when reading our current newsletter.

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 either through a completed single program or a continuing effort. An applicant may either be nominated by another person or may apply himself/herself. A group or scion society may be nominated. An applicant need not be the recipient of a Jan Stauber Grant.

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.



THE 2020 JAN STAUBER GRANTS

Cindy Brown has announced that the Jan Stauber Grant Committee has approved 8 applications (with another pending) for the 2020 Jan Stauber Grant Program. At the Society's annual meeting in January, the Board of Directors approved the grant allocation from \$600 to \$750. The number of applications increase in 2020 from the 5 applications approved in 2019.



The Board of Directors also approved providing a copy of the Baker Street Irregulars Press 2019 publication *Education Never Ends* to each JSG applicant that submits their program's final report to the JSG Committee.

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 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. The 2020 Grantees will be posted soon.

THE R. JOEL SENTER SR. MEMORIAL PRIZE ESSAY CONTEST

The inaugural **R. Joel Senter Sr. Memorial Prize Essay Contest** has concluded, and I am happy to report that we received 8 entries with representations in all three classes of the competition: 4-6 Grade, 7-9 grade and 10-12 grade.

If you recall Carolyn Senter approached the Beacon Society to setup a program that would be an instrument through which her husband Joel's contribution to the Sherlockian world would be remembered. Carolyn has already provided funding for the program for years to come, and the Board of Directors has voted to fund the program as needed going forward.

The winners of the 2020 R. Joel Senter Sr. Memorial Prize Essay Contest are:

4th - 6th Grade

Ryder Luneau (1ST Place) from Spring, TX
Nora Baker (2nd Place) from Glen Carbon, IL



7th - 9th Grade

Thomas Hébert (1st Place) from Fairview, TX
Abigail Natale (2nd Place) from Alexandria, KY

10th - 12th Grade

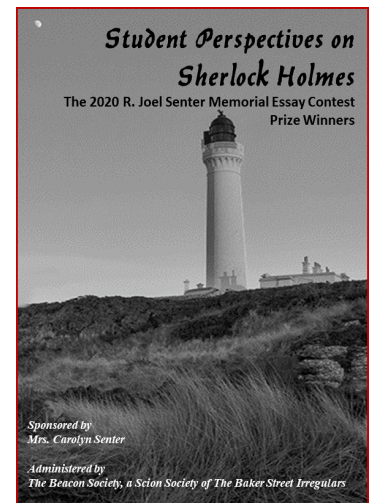
Adriana Zayia (1st Place) from Chicago, IL
Olivia Richard (2nd Place tie) from Plymouth, MA
Eleanor Hébert (2nd Place tie) from Fairview, TX
Emma Bezek (3rd Place) from North Canton, OH

Our Communications Chair, Steve Mason, has done a magnificent job in producing a document commemorating the inaugural year of the contest.

[http://www.beaconsociety.com/uploads/3/7/3/8/37380505/2020_senter_essay_award_winners -- essays.pdf](http://www.beaconsociety.com/uploads/3/7/3/8/37380505/2020_senter_essay_award_winners_-_essays.pdf)

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 www.beaconsociety.com.



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.

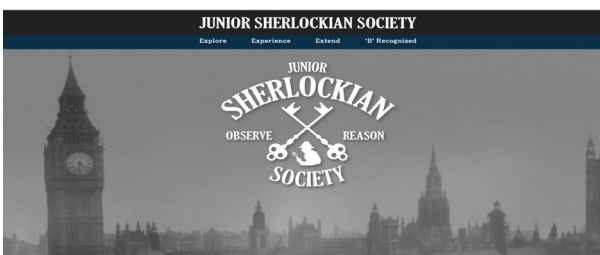
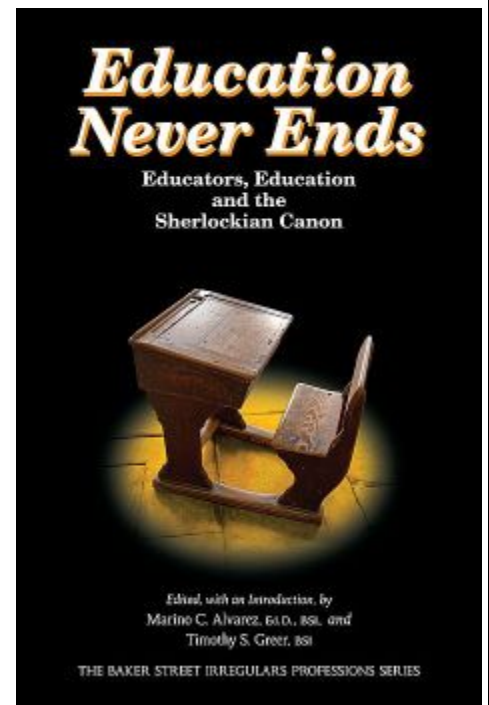
Thanks to Shannon and her Committee, the JSS continues to be one of the crown jewels of the Beacon Society.

As mentioned in a previous article, the Beacon Society will be presenting copies of the BSI Press's **Education Never Ends** to successful Jan Stauber Grant applicants.

Shannon Carlisle, our Junior Sherlockian Society Chair, is one of the contributors along with a number of other Beaconites.

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 check out the Junior Sherlockian Society at:

www.juniorsherlockian.com

LIBRARY DISPLAY CASE PROGRAM

The Library Display Case program is the only Beacon Society program that has been impacted by the Pandemic.

Not to be deterred, 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 your setup a display promoting Sherlock Holmes?"

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

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

Watch you email for the kickoff date announcement and instructions.

**The World of
Sherlock
Holmes**

**The Immortal
Detective for
All Ages**



ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE NEXT 3-YEAR TERM

The Beacon Society By-Laws state that the term of service of the officers of the Society shall be 3-years.

The term of our current officers (Head Light – Denny Dobry; Percy Phelps, Heather Holloway; and Bursar, Dick Kitts) expire on September 30, 2020.

Any member may run for office.

Members may nominate any existing Society member. Current officers may be re-elected.

I have appointed a Nominating Committee to seek out willing and qualified candidates.

Also, nominations may be submitted to me at dennydobry@ptd.net, and I will forward them to the Nominating Committee.

After a slate of candidates has been assembled, a vote by the General Membership will be conducted in August, with the new team taking office on October 1st.

Once in Office, the Head Light will appoint Committee Chairs for the coming 3-year term.



**IT'S TIME FOR
BOARD ELECTIONS!**

YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

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

Special recognition goes out to Belanger Books who continue to donate the profits from Belanger Books' ***Young Adult Sherlock Holmes Collection*** to the Beacon Society.

Thanks to Derrick and his staff .

Your donations are tax deductible.

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)

