

"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 6, NUMBER 1 – January, 2022



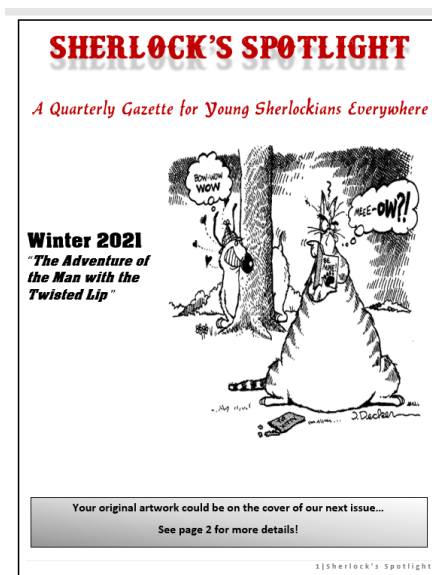
From the Desk of the Head-Light

These past two years have been difficult ones for many, especially regarding the Covid pandemic and the related social and financial upheavals. The Beacon Society is fortunate to have the most supportive and generous donors, who have continued to step up to the plate during these trying times. Thank you all.

Despite the often-rapid changes in teaching environments and uncertainties about scheduling events, the Beacon Society continues its mission to bring the Canon to young people. Check out *Sherlock's Spotlight*, a downloadable free gazette for kids, and the activities in the Junior Sherlockian Society. I encourage fourth through twelfth graders to submit an essay to our Joel R. Senter, Sr. Essay Contest by March 1st. Not only do the top essayists receive cash prizes, they also can call themselves published authors.

Our mission also includes supporting educators, both individuals and institutions, through our Jan Stauber Grant program, and recognizing those who have excelled through the Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award.

On an administrative note, our Annual Meeting was held virtually on Wednesday, January 5th. For those who could not attend, the meeting minutes will be available at our website soon.



SHOW YOUR SUPPORT - BEACON SOCIETY

PIN SALE!



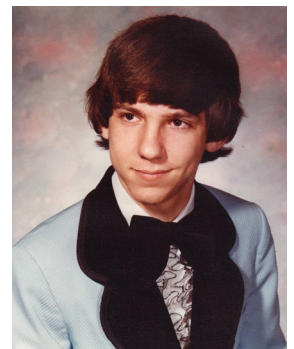
Support the Beacon Society by buying and proudly wearing a Beacon Society lapel pin. And if you purchase your pin before April 1st, the price is only **\$8, including shipping.**

It's an easy way to show you care. You can pay via Paypal at our website (remember to email your mailing address to Dick at rkitts@aol.com), or send a check made out to The Beacon Society to:

Richard J. Kitts
13 Cameron Ct.
Monroe Township, NJ 08831

Awards

We are pleased to award the 2021 Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award to our Communications Chair, Steve Mason. He was acknowledged at our Annual Meeting and awarded his certificate during the Birthday celebrations in New York. Steve has worked tirelessly to spread word of the Beacon Society's contests and events and has regularly gone above and beyond to keep those lines of communication open.



We are now accepting nominations for the 2022 award. If you know of someone who is helping bring the Canon to young people, please nominate them at <https://www.beaconsociety.com/the-beacon-award.html>. You have until November 15th, but we encourage you to nominate early and nominate often.

Communication

It's fair to say that we would be lost without our Communications Committee. The hard-working members coordinate social media outreach and information distribution, as well as our e-gazette, *Sherlock's Spotlight*. They all deserve a tip of the hat and a heart-felt thank you.

Yearning to test your canonical knowledge? The Fortescue Scholarship Honours Program allows you to do just that through a series of exams, each with an appropriate degree awarded upon

successful completion. More information is available at our website.

Societies are the life-blood of the Sherlockian community, but how do you find one in your area? Our new Sherlockian Societies page helps you do just that. An interactive map lets you find out if there are any societies in your local area and provides contact information. We include information

about many societies and the newsletters of some. Want to form your own society? We provide tips and suggestions, as well.



Fundraising

We appreciate all our donors and their donations, large and small. We cannot perform our mission without you! Our Fundraising Committee sent our annual request for donations letter, and welcomes responses to that, as well as those that magically arrive on our doorstep.

The Fundraising Committee is also looking into the Amazon Smile program, which donates a portion of your purchase to your designated charity. Watch this space for updates!



Grants

Grants are the lifeblood of education, and the Beacon Society loves to support educators and organizations who want to bring Holmes to young people.



applicants and would love to help more this year. We have also increased the maximum amount for each grant to \$800, as well as streamlined the reporting process.

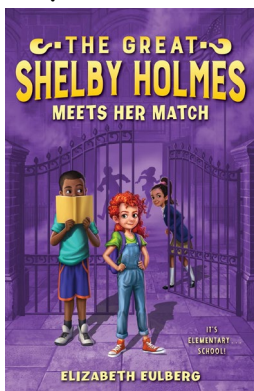
Our Jan Stauber Grants provide financial assistance for these endeavors.

Last year the Grants Committee approved all eight of our grant

If you or an educator you know are interested in applying, the application deadline is May 1st. Check our website for applications and requirements.

Junior Sherlockian Society

The Junior Sherlockian Society encourages young people to explore the world of Sherlock Holmes through various media and complete several tasks to become a Junior Sherlockian.



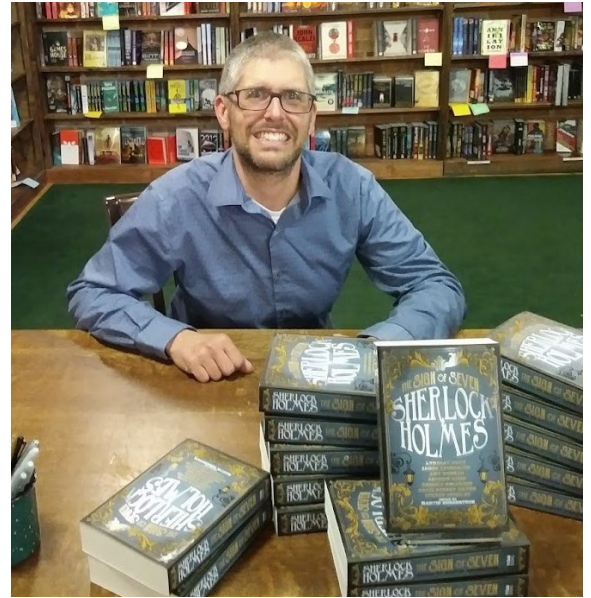
Recently, some Junior Sherlockians interviewed authors Nancy Springer (creator of Enola Holmes) and Elizabeth Eulberg (author of the Shelby Holmes series) and posted their interviews on the JSS website.



Programming

I'm sorry to see former Programming Chair Rob Nunn step down as committee chair but am thrilled that he'll continue to help out with various projects.

We're fortunate that Derrick Belanger agreed to join us as our new Programming Chair. Derrick is a teacher, author, and co-owner of Belanger Books, and I'm excited to be working with him.



The upheaval of the past two years has played havoc with Beacon Society programs. Our Library Display Case program has been waiting in limbo, but we now are moving forward again and hope to launch the program in the near future. This program will work in conjunction with local societies. More details to be announced soon.



THE BEACON SOCIETY

*Supporting and recognizing exemplary educational experiences
that introduce young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories*



*A Sherlock Society of the
Baker Street Irregulars*

Winter is a time for planning and preparation and we're taking full advantage of that. The Beacon Society will continue our work to bring Sherlock Holmes to young people, thanks to our members' hard work and generosity.

If you'd like to comment on an existing program or suggest a new project, please email me at headlight_beaconsociety@yahoo.com. And we always welcome folks who would like to volunteer!

Keeping green the memory of the Master,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carla Kaessinger Coupe".

Carla Kaessinger Coupe