

"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 3 – July, 2022



From the Desk of the Head-Light

The dog days of summer are upon us, which in my household, at least, means finding a cool corner, settling in for an hour or two, and getting lost in the Canon. Part of the Beacon Society's mission is to help make some version of this possible for young people. Whether it be reading or listening to a Sherlock Holmes story, watching or participating in a show based on the Canon, using Holmesian methods of deduction to solve a puzzle—all these avenues help acquaint young people with the world of Sherlock Holmes.

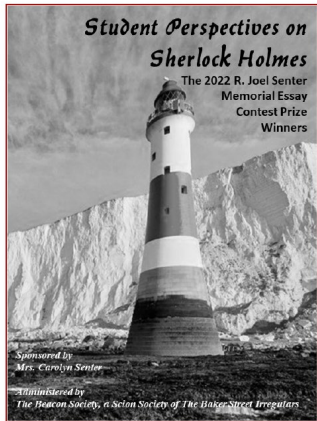
We can only achieve this through the support of our valued donors and have made giving even easier by joining the AmazonSmile program; you can read more about how to give through AmazonSmile in our Fundraising Committee report. Regardless of the amount, every donation is appreciated, and all monies go toward the Beacon Society mission: to bring the magic of Sherlock Holmes to young people.

Would you like to recognize an individual or organization who has excelled at bringing the Canon to young people? Consider nominating them for the 2022 Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award. The winner will receive \$221, a handsome framed certificate, and a year's subscription to two stellar publications: *The Baker Street Journal* and *The Serpentine Muse*. You can find more information on how to nominate here [<https://www.beaconsociety.com/the-beacon-award.html>]. The deadline is November 15th, but we encourage you to nominate early and nominate often.

Don't forget about our other programs: the Jan Stauber Grant program, the R. Joel Senter, Sr. Memorial Essay Contest, the Library Display program, *Sherlock's Spotlight*, the Fortescue Scholarship Exams, and our Society Locator page. There's something for everyone!



AWARDS



The Awards Committee isn't taking a break after reading and evaluating the submissions to the R. Joel Senter, Sr. Memorial Essay Contest.

Currently they are busy taking care of several often-neglected housekeeping tasks and focusing on strategic planning. Their efforts should help widen publicity for the Senter Essay Contest and make the rules easier to understand.

Junior Sherlockian Society

The Junior Sherlockian Society encourages young people to explore the world of Sherlock Holmes, experience the canonical stories, extend their understanding and appreciation of Sherlock Holmes, and be recognized for their efforts by becoming a Junior Sherlockian.



Communications

Our Communications Committee work hard to keep everyone up-to-date with all Beacon Society programs and publications and deserve kudos!

They have updated the interactive map for locating Sherlockian Societies on our Sherlockian Society webpage. If you are interested in finding out if a society exists in a particular area, our map can help provide you that information:

[Locating a Sherlockian Society Map - The Beacon Society](#)

Many Sherlockians found a slight silver lining in the Pandemic: it gave them time to catch up on their reading and to also participate in the Beacon Society's Fortescue Scholarship Exam program. To date, over 115 Sherlockians have completed the three exams which make up the core of the program, and thus have been awarded the prestigious title of "Doctor of Sherlockiana". And remember, there's an optional annual recertification exam that gives you a chance to refine your Sherlockian knowledge. The three recertification exams are available to those who have completed the three core exams. You can find more information here:



<https://www.beaconsociety.com/fortescue-scholarship-exams.html>

We've already published six issues of our *Sherlock's Spotlight* gazette, written for younger Sherlockians, and providing them with both entertainment and information on Sherlock Holmes. Do you know a young Sherlockian who likes to draw? Encourage them to submit original Sherlock-Holmes-related artwork for the cover of the gazette. Sherlockians of all ages are encouraged to submit articles, mini-mysteries, artwork, and puzzles that we can include in future issues.

[Sherlock's Spotlight Gazette - The Beacon Society](#)

If you love doing puzzles, we have just the page for you. Each puzzle consists of three parts—a Word Search puzzle, a Kriss-Kross puzzle, and a traditional Crossword puzzle. There are three sets of puzzles for each of the 56 short stories, and six sets for each of the four novels.

<https://www.beaconsociety.com/the-puzzles-of-sherlock-holmes.html>

Fundraising

We always, ALWAYS welcome traditional donations, but now you can also support us through the AmazonSmile program. AmazonSmile donates 0.5% of your eligible Amazon purchases to a charity of your choice—in this case, the Beacon Society. Though 0.5% may not sound like much, all donations are helpful and much appreciated.

Here's how to use AmazonSmile to support the Beacon Society:

1. Instead of going to Amazon.com, use the Beacon Society AmazonSmile link:
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/27-1335576>
2. Sign into Amazon if you're an existing customer or create a new Amazon account.
3. You can tell you're shopping on the correct page if you see the AmazonSmile logo in the corner of the page and "Supporting the Beacon Society" below the search bar.
4. When you hover over the Beacon Society name, you can see additional information and track how much you've donated through your purchases.

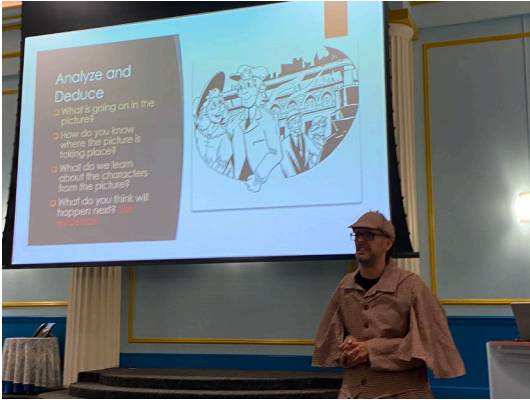


Millions of products are eligible for donations—just look for "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on its product detail page.

And if you use the Amazon App, once you establish a link to the Beacon Society, open the app and find "Settings" in the main menu (≡). Tap on "AmazonSmile" and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone.

It's that simple... And the Beacon Society will receive a deposit from Amazon each quarter for all the purchases made by Sherlockians under this program.

Grants



For 2022 we received eleven grant applications for projects ranging from books for the Read With Me program, to Sherlock Holmes books in English and French for a project in Quebec, and books in print, Braille, adapted stories, and graphic novels for children who are deaf and blind.

The awards totaled \$7,750. We are excited about the upcoming projects and will share them on our website once they are complete. The applications have grown from seven in 2020, to eight in 2021, to the current eleven for this year.



We definitely feel like we are moving in the right direction. Grant applications may request up to \$800 per project.

Applications and requirements are available here
[<https://www.beaconsociety.com/the-jan-stauber-grant.html>].

Programming

We are thrilled that our new Library Display Project is already producing results!

The Beacon Society provides the essentials for creating a Sherlock-Holmes-themed display in a public or school library display case.

Local scions or societies may request a free display box (one per scion or society) and then personalize their display with their own items, books, tee-shirts, memorabilia, etc.

You can find out more about this project here
[<https://www.beaconsociety.com/library-display-project.html>].



Allen Texas Public Library display, courtesy of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star



Panorama City California Branch Library, courtesy of the Curious Collectors of Baker Street



Georgetown California Public Library, courtesy of Elizabeth Ketelle



Stillwater Minnesota Public Library, courtesy of Jodi Kaericher





THE BEACON SOCIETY

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



*A Solon Society of the
Baker Street Irregulars*

I'm not certain Sherlock Holmes would have enjoyed London's current heat wave, although the good doctor would have found the heat familiar, if not welcome. Whether we are fans of the summer sun or not, we can take a break from our summer activities to appreciate the Canon.

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,

Carla Kaessinger Coupe

Carla Kaessinger Coupe

