

"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 4 – December, 2022



From the Desk of the Head-Light

When Maribeau Briggs proposed creating The Beacon Society in 2003, who could have imagined that we'd be going strong and celebrating our twentieth anniversary in 2023!

We could not have done this without the incredible support of all the people who helped found and guide The Beacon Society through the years, all the Board and committee members, donors, and officers, including past Head-Lights Scott Monty, Joe Copolla, Susan Diamond, Bill Mason, and Denny Dobry. We thank each and every one of you!

Over the years, The Beacon Society has established many programs and projects to bring the Canon to young people.

We are proud to administer Jan Stauber Grants, the Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award, the Fortescue Scholarship Exams, and the R. Joel Senter, Sr. Memorial Essay Contest.

Our Library Display program, Sherlock's Spotlight gazette, and Society Locator page spread the word about Sherlock Holmes and encourage individual Sherlockians to get involved in our mission.

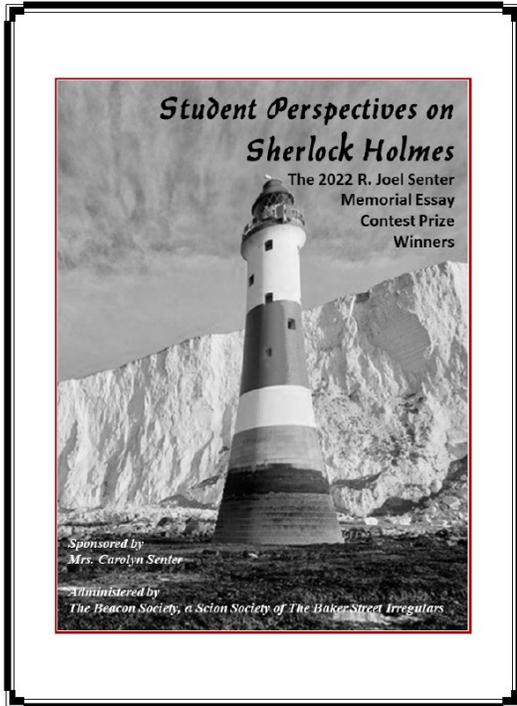
Check out our new Comprehensive Look at the Stories of the Canon page, which brings together a host of resources useful to those dipping their toes into Sherlockian waters for the first time, as well as students and seasoned canonical readers. There is something for everyone on these pages.

All our supporters are welcome to join us at our online general annual meeting, which will be held via Zoom on Thursday, December 29th, at 9 pm EST. Register for the meeting at:

https://uso2web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAvd-irrDMuGNwEdILkmE_fqXLSv6oMZ^Wp3



AWARDS



It's time to remind all teachers, parents, and members of Sherlock Holmes scions and societies about the R. Joel Senter, Sr. Memorial Essay Contest. We need your help in getting the word out to your students/children who love reading, writing, and Sherlock Holmes!

Don't forget that winning essays receive cash prizes of up to \$500 for 10th-12th grade winners and up to \$300 for 4th-6th and 7th-9th grade winners.

Essays must be emailed and received by the Beacon Society, in care of Dan Andriacco at tankervilleclub@gmail.com, by March 1, 2023.

Find the rules, guidelines, and entry form here:

<https://www.beaconsociety.com/essay-contest---rules--prizes.html>

In addition to running the Essay Contest, the Awards Committee also selects the recipient of the Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award. This year's winner will be officially announced at our annual general meeting (via Zoom) on Thursday, December 29th, at 9 p.m. EST. Thanks to all our committee members for their continued hard work.

If you'd like to nominate a person, society, or other organization for their work in successfully bringing the Canon to young people, you have until November 15th, 2023 to apply for consideration here: <https://www.beaconsociety.com/apply-for-an-award.html>.

Junior Sherlockian Society

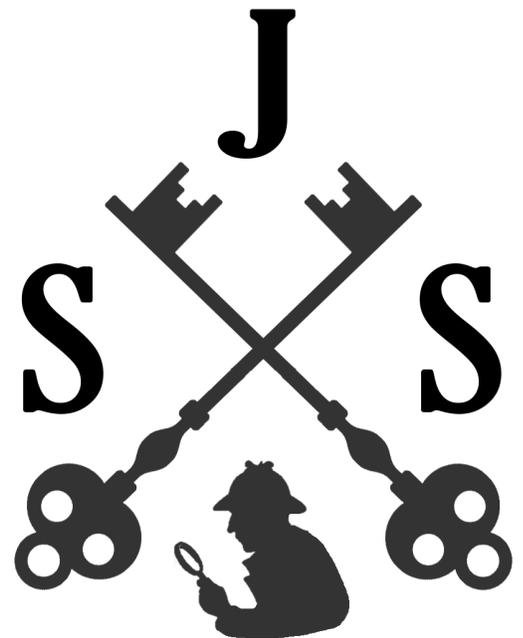


Change is also happening in the Junior Sherlockian Society, where we're saying goodbye to founder and head Shannon Carlisle.

She established the JSS five years ago, created the program and website content, and is responsible for welcoming many young Sherlockians into the fold.

We're pleased that Beth Gallego will be taking over the JSS and know that the JSS will be in good hands.

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 is the heart of the Beacon Society, and constantly brings new and exciting ways to appreciate and publicize the Canon.

This fall the committee unveiled their newest project: a comprehensive look at the stories of the Sherlock Holmes Canon. This invaluable resource includes general information about the stories, as well as summaries and complete texts, audiobooks, illustrations, quotes, study guides, puzzles, limericks, and more! Come explore this rich trove of canonical treasure here:

<https://www.beaconsociety.com/comprehensive-stories.html>.

Don't forget about all the other interesting projects and programs created and run by the committee. There's 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](#)

The Fortescue Scholarship Exam program consists of three exams, leading to being awarded the prestigious title of "Doctor of Sherlockiana". More information is available here:

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

Young Sherlockians will enjoy Sherlock's Spotlight gazette, which features Sherlock-themed articles, mini-mysteries, artwork, and puzzles. You can find copies here:

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

Fundraising

We're sorry that Crystal Noll is stepping down as our Fundraising Chair. She has done a fantastic job, and we'll miss her enthusiasm and creativity. Fortunately for us, David McAllister, an experienced Fundraising Committee member, has agreed to helm the committee, so he'll be able to be up and running quickly.

As always, we'd like to thank each and every one of our donors. We appreciate your support, whether you're a single-time donor, or someone who contributes regularly.

Don't forget that you can support the Beacon Society 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.

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.
5. 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.

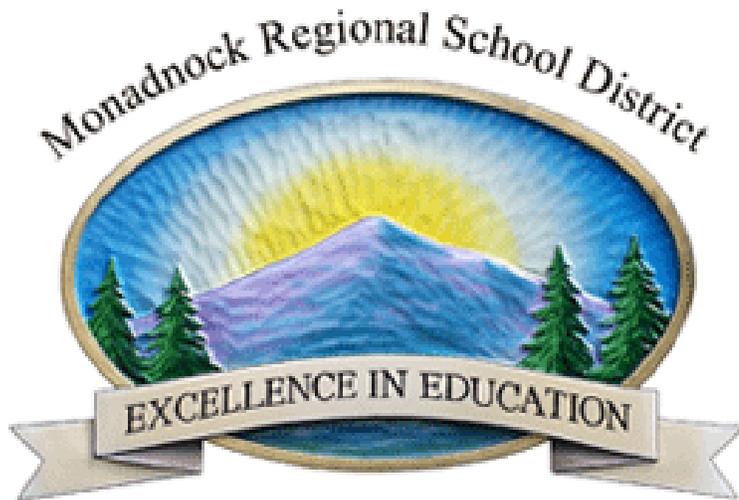
Grants

Awarding Jan Stauber Grants is one of the most important aspects of the Beacon Society mission. These grants are used to help educators buy Sherlock-related books in a variety of formats, including Braille, to support theatre programs with canonical themes, to create hands-on labs for students to learn deductive skills, among many others.

In order to make the application process more accessible to educators and program-leaders, the Grants Committee decided to accept applications throughout the year and to increase the top limit to the amount that may be requested to \$1,000.

Applications and requirements are available here:

<https://www.beaconsociety.com/the-jan-stauber-grant.html>



Programming

The Programming Committee is working on some new projects that we hope to roll out in 2023. We'll be announcing more on them in future newsletters.

In the meantime, remember that our Library Display Project is ready to help you set up a Sherlock-Holmes-themed display in a public or school library display case. We provide the essentials, such as posters and other graphic images, a selection of books, and a variety of memorabilia. Local scions or societies may request a free display box (one per scion or society) and then personalize your display with items from your own collections.

You can find out more about this project here:

<https://www.beaconsociety.com/library-display-project.html>.





Now that winter is upon us (at least those of us in the northern hemisphere), we can enjoy curling up in a cozy nook with a cup of tea and reading our favorite seasonal stories.

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.

Compliments of the season to all!

Carla Kaessinger Coupe

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