

"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 7, NUMBER 1 – March, 2023



From the Desk of the Head-Light

Our online annual general meeting was held via Zoom on Thursday, December 29th, at 9 pm EST. I was unable to attend (thank you, unpleasant medical procedure), but our Programs chair, Derrick Belanger, stepped up and led the meeting. A tip of the hat to you, Derrick! You can find the minutes and committee reports on our website at:

[2022 General Meeting Minutes and Committee Reports](#)

The past several months have seen three of our Committee Chairs step down. While we're sorry to see them go and thank them for all their hard work, we're pleased to welcome our new Chairs. Crystal Noll, long-time Chair of the Fundraising Committee who has been so successful in filling our financial coffers, is replaced by David McAllister. David has been a member of the Fundraising Committee for many years, and we welcome him in his new role.

Founder and head of the popular Junior Sherlockian Society, Shannon Carlisle has created a portal for young readers to enter the world of Sherlock Holmes. Beth Gallego will be assuming the JSS mantle, and we know she will maintain the JSS's high standards and exciting projects.

Lastly, we offer our congratulations to Dan Andriacco of the Awards Committee. During the BSI dinner in January, we were thrilled to learn that he is taking over the editorial duties of *The Baker Street Journal*. Despite our sadness at losing Dan, we were very glad when Ann Andriacco agreed to become Chair. Kudos and thanks to all!

We're also pleased to announce that Anna Behrens of Keene, NH was the winner of the Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award. Anna truly exemplifies the type of educator the Beacon Society was established to support. Read more about Anna's accomplishments in the Awards Committee report.

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 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.

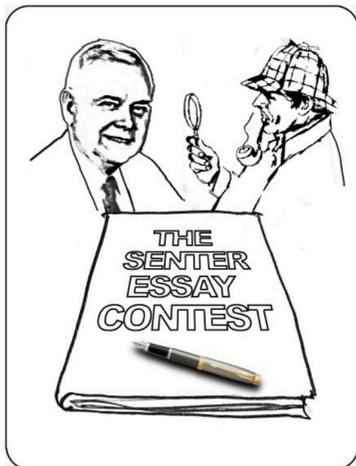
AWARDS

The 2022 recipient of the Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award is Anna Behrens. She's a dynamic force whose goal is to get middle school and high school students involved in the world of Sherlock Holmes. In conjunction with the Keene, NH public library, Anna organized a week of Sherlockian activities. Using a variety of learning modes, she encouraged students to read stories and experiment with various media, including dressing up and acting out "The Red Headed League". The Beacon Society is proud to present Anna with a certificate, a check for \$221, and a year's subscription to both *The Serpentine Muse* and *The Baker Street Journal*. Congratulations, Anna!



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 15, 2023, to apply for consideration here:

[Beacon Award Nomination Page](#)



This is the time of year when the Awards Committee members read and evaluate the entries to the R. Joel Senter, Sr. Memorial Essay Contest. There are 62 entries for the 4th-6th grade level, eight for the 7th-9th grades, and an even dozen for the 10th-12th grades. After publicizing the essay contest through the Ohio Writers Project, we received many entries from two schools in the Cincinnati area.

One teacher noted that her students are becoming Sherlock Holmes fans and the contest has engendered debate on Holmes's attitudes toward women, crime, and other topics in her high school English courses. All 125 of her students submitted essays and the students themselves evaluated the papers and chose which ones would go on to the contest.

We are thrilled at the number of entries and look forward to reading the winning essays, which will be available in a downloadable pdf booklet. You can check the Beacon Society website for information and updates:

[Joel Senter Essay Contest](#)

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.

As part of the committee chair transition, The Junior Sherlockian Society website is now up and running as part of The Beacon Society site:

[Junior Sherlockian Society](https://www.juniorsherlockian.com)

You can still get there by going to [juniorsherlockian.com](https://www.juniorsherlockian.com), too.

Until now, participants received standard certificates when they completed the tasks to become Junior Sherlockians. Internet child protection laws forbade collecting the child's name and personal information without a parent or guardian's consent. We're pleased that the updated site includes a new form for parents or guardians to request a personalized completion certificate when their Junior Sherlockians are ready to "B" recognized.

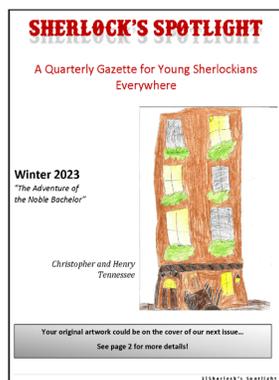
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Communications

The Communications Committee continues to be busy with multiple projects and updates, as well as distributing timely information via our email lists. Just maintaining our website takes tremendous dedication, and we appreciate all the work that Steve Mason and Rusty Mason do to keep it current.

In February, we published the tenth issue of *Sherlock's Spotlight*, a gazette for younger Sherlockians. Filled with puzzles, games, and age-appropriate articles, *Sherlock's Spotlight* is a wonderful resource for encouraging young readers to explore the world of Sherlock Holmes. You can find copies here:



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

The Fortescue Scholarship Exam program consists of three exams, leading to being awarded the prestigious title of "Doctor of Sherlockiana", as well as recertification exams for those who want to re-hone their Sherlockian knowledge. Since the beginning of January, we have given out 38 certificates of completion for assorted exams! This program is definitely a way to stay sharp and take advantage of being inside



during the winter months. More information is available here:

[Fortescue Scholarship Examinations](#)

Don't forget to check out our 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:



[A Comprehensive Look at the Stories](#)

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](#)

Fundraising

Fundraising can be a thankless task, but in addition to an amazing Fundraising Committee, we have been blessed with generous supporters and donors who remember The Beacon Society's existence and mission. We are also fortunate to be the official charity of 221B Con, the popular Sherlockian convention that takes place in Atlanta, Georgia every spring.

In a case of unfortunate timing, just as we had jumped through the various hoops and set up our AmazonSmile account, Amazon decided to suspend the program. Ah, well.



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. You can find out how to donate here:

[Provide Support to the Beacon Society](#)



Grants



The Grants Committee evaluates applications for Jan Stauber Grants, which come from libraries, schools, theater groups, and other organizations and individuals who want to introduce their young people to the Canon. This is a core component of The Beacon Society, and we have not only increased the amount that may be requested to \$1,000, we have also dispensed with the application deadline. You may apply for a grant throughout the year.

Applications and requirements are available here:

[The Jan Stauber Grant Program](#)

One of the committee's ongoing projects is to find a way to provide books to juvenile detention centers. However, finding the right people to contact has been difficult. If anyone has contacts in the juvenile justice system, please email committee chair Cindy Brown at epacpa@gmail.com.



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:

[Beacon Society Library Display Project](#)

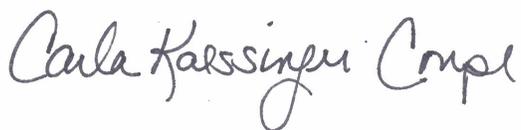


“What a lovely thing a rose is! ... But this rose is an extra. Its smell and its color are an embellishment of life, not a condition of it. It is only goodness which gives extras, and so I say again that we have much to hope from the flowers.”

Sherlock Holmes seldom waxed lyrical, but he is right to say that there is a special magic in flowers. Signs of life are peeping out after a long winter. There are now hints of spring in the air (at least in the mid-Atlantic region), and we look forward to more daylight and blooms returning to our gardens. During this time that lifts our spirits, 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.

Off to smell some daffodils

Keeping green the memory of the Master,



Carla Kaessinger Coupe