



THE BEACON SOCIETY

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



*A Scion Society of the
Baker Street Irregulars*

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2015

January 16, 2016: Roosevelt Hotel, Park Suite, New York City

The Beacon Society meeting was held on Saturday, January 16 at the Roosevelt Hotel. The Society was founded by ASH Maribeau Briggs to support educational experiences that introduce young people to the Canon and to recognize exemplary efforts that do so. For more information, go to BeaconSociety.com or the Society's Facebook page.

Head Light Bill Mason congratulated 2014 Beacon Award winner Tim Greer on receiving the BSI investiture of The Ragged Shaw. Outgoing Bursar Carol Cavalluzzi and incoming Bursar Richard Kitts jointly presented the treasurer's report. Tax-deductible donations to the Society may be sent to Richard Kitts, 100 Van Cortlandt Ave., Staten Island, NY 10301 (checks payable to The Beacon Society). Donations may also be made via PayPal at BeaconSociety.com.

Steve Mason is the Society's new Communications Chair, taking over from ASH Marilynne McKay. He announced that the Society website has been redesigned and reorganized. The Grants Committee report by Susan Diamond stated that the committee received 16 Jan Stauber Grant applications and awarded 15 grants for a total of just under \$6,000. The Board has authorized \$8,000 to be given out in grants in 2016 with a maximum of \$500 per grant. The application form is at BeaconSociety.com; the deadline is May 1.

Marino Alvarez, Award Committee Chair, announced that Dr. Michael Brady was this year's Beacon Award winner. Dr. Brady developed a Sherlockian curriculum related to the California High School Standards and then used it in classrooms at Torch Middle School, Fullerton Community College, and Santa Ana Community College. He also taught this curriculum to adolescents in the California Penal System. Dr. Brady currently resides in Williamson County, Tennessee and is a member of the Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem.

The meeting concluded with a presentation by Shannon Carlisle, a K-4th grade teacher in the Moore Elementary School in Franklin, Tennessee. She was the 2013 Beacon Award winner and is a 2015 Stauber Grant awardee. She uses the Canon to teach basic observation and reasoning skills. Her classroom is “221B Baker Street,” and age-appropriate editions of the stories introduce her students to Canon. The year starts with a “crime scene” for the students to investigate; through the year they can move up the Scotland Yard ranks by completing learning activities. During 2015 her students researched museums and turned part of their classroom into a Sherlock Holmes museum which was dedicated to Beacon Society members Francine Kitts and Marino Alvarez. Her students’ work has also been published in the Muse.