

THE BEACON SOCIETY
MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2020
10:08 AM, Saturday, January 09, 2021

The Meeting was called to order by Head-Light Carla Coupe at 10:08 AM

2019 General Meeting Minutes – The Secretary (Percy Phelps), Deborah Clark, prepared the minutes from the 2019 Minutes. Minutes were accepted and approved as read.

FULL COMMITTEE REPORTS ARE APPENDED TO THESE MINUTES

2020 Treasurers Report

Dick Kitts, Bursar (Treasurer) reported that 2020 started with a Balance of \$49,243, received Income of \$9,520 from donations and paid \$7,989 in Expenses. Prizes and awards comprised of approximately 97% of expenses: the Jan Stauber Grant Program equaled \$3,824; the R. Joel Senter Sr. Contest equaled \$2,143 and the Susan Diamond Z Diamond Beacon award equaled \$ 283.00. Fifty BSI editions of Education Never Ends were purchased at a cost of \$1500. Other expenses totaled \$248.00. There was a balance in the treasury of \$50,794 at the end of the year. The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

Awards Committee - Chairperson Art Renkowitz has stepped down with our grateful thanks for his years of service. Dan Andriacco, his successor, reported that the **R. Joel Senter Sr. Essay Award** has been established for 4th-12th grade students. Denny Dobry has been approved to serve as Director-at-Large to shepherd the program through its beginnings. The deadline for applications to the essay contest is February 1st. The Awards Committee chose David Fake as the 2020 recipient of the **2019 Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award**. Denny Dobry will make the presentation to Mr Fake who will receive a Certificate, a check for \$221 and years subscription to the Baker Street Journal & the Serpentine News.

Communications Committee - Steve Mason, Chairperson, reported that their current priority is the Beacon Society Website and getting all we do posted there. Thanks go to Rusty Mason for maintaining the website. The goal is to add all publicly available papers, research dissertations, etc. Puzzles are added each week. In January, Jan Stauber Grant announcements, the R. Joel Senter Memorial Essay Contest, and nominations for the Susan Z. Diamond and Beacon Awards will go out to each member of the Beacon Society, educational associations, museums, and library associations across the U.S. More will be added this year. The Committee has focused on promoting these programs by sending multiple e-mails throughout the year to numerous individuals and organizations.

Fundraising Committee - Crystal Noll, Chairperson, thanked all who donated this year; it was really appreciated. She reported that \$9,520.20 was received in donations in 2020, exceeding the budgeted amount of \$9,000. This came from 28 donors, some donating multiple times. Solicitation letters were sent out mid-year to individuals and organizations. Solicitation letters, as well as the Beacon Society trifold, were included in the Swag bags and sent virtually to attendees

of the BSI Dinner, THE Woman dinner and the Gaslight Gala. Crystal again thanked the committee and noted that since Carla is now Headlight, there is a vacancy on the committee. That position will be filled by Heather Holloway. Usually, the 221B Con Board of Directors chooses the Beacon Society as their charity of the year, resulting in a very generous donation. Unfortunately, there won't be any fundraising in 2021 since the Con will be held virtually (April 9-11). However, information on the Beacon Society will still be available. The Fundraising Committee set a fundraising goal of \$9,000 for 2021 and are on the way to meeting that with six donors already contributing \$1,936.00.

Grants Committee - Cindy Brown, Chairperson, reported that the Committee approved all ten Jan Stauber Grant applications that were received for total amount to be awarded of \$5,269. The Committee is still waiting for 5 final reports from the 2019 Grant Program due to the Pandemic. The Committee noted that Scott Monty and Burt Wolder have been promoting the Beacon Society on their podcast. The application period for the 2021 Grants Program opens on January 31st and are due by May 1st.

Junior Sherlockian Committee - Chairperson Shannon Carlisle reported that the Junior Sherlockian Society (JSS) celebrated their 3rd birthday on August 8th 2020 (the 221st day of the year.) Two grants from the Beacon Society bought books and sets of books featuring the "Blue Carbuncle" and "Red Headed League" for 1st-2nd, 3rd and 4th grades in the 221B Baker Street classroom. Bill Dorn's first grade needs Blue Carbuncle to be a play. Another has created a pastiche: "Sherlock Holmes and the Kentucky Derby." The Committee would like to add those to the Sherlockian.com website so that they can be shared. Five hundred sixteen wooden nickels promoting the JSS were sent to attendees at the BSI Dinner, THE Woman dinner and the Gaslight Gala. *Sherlock Spotlight* (of which there are 301 subscribers) also promotes the JSS. There have been 4000 visits monthly. This year's expenses were \$209.51 for hosting and renewing the domain name. The budget for next year is \$600.

Programming Committee - Rob Nunn, Chairperson also thanked the Committee for their work. He reported that things had been quiet due to the Pandemic and that he has been assisting Steve Mason with the Library Display kits but since Libraries are shut that project has been on hold. The Committee assisted with the R. Joel Senter, Sr. Memorial Essay Contest roll out by reworking the contest rules and rubrics to make them more kid friendly. Rob also assisted Steve Mason with *Sherlock Spotlight*. The Committee has continued to work on the compilation of the biographies of all the previous Beacon Award winners. Bob Katz donated 5 copies of *Remarkable Characters of Sherlock Holmes* to the Society for distribution, possibly as prizes.

Old Business:

R. Joel Senter, Sr. Program – The Board of Directors approved Denny Dobry as Director at large to shepherd the R Joel Senter, Sr Essay Contest through its initial growing pains. Denny Dobry explained that after Joel passed, his wife, Carolyn expressed interest in having his contributions to the field remembered and so the Essay Contest was established. Last year, the first time it was held, there were 8 entries. The deadline for this year's application is 2/1/21 and Denny asked that we all encourage kids to do it. There are 3 categories: grades 4-6; grades 7-9 and grades 10-12. At each level there are cash prizes: 1st place is \$300; 2nd place is \$200 and 3rd place is \$100.

Details are on the website and the instructions are much clearer now thanks to Rob Nunn and his Committee.

Fortescue Scholarship – The Recertification Program is posted and under way. Details are on the website.

New Business:

Sherlock's Spotlight and Elementary + The first issue launched in the Fall; the next issue will be in February. Steve Mason recognized Greg Ruby for running the Facebook page for the Beacon Society and restarting Twitter. The *Spotlight* included work by Mike McClure. Regular contributors include Robb Nunn and Shannon Carlisle. Steve Mason is soliciting articles appropriate for kids, and art work by artistic kids. Drawings are needed for the cover.

Thank you to Denny Dobry – The Beacon Society has benefited immensely from Denny Dobry's leadership as Headlight of the Society. The Society has grown, the Bylaws have been reviewed, updated or changed, and there has been an increase in the awards. Denny has been a very effective missionary and a cheerleader for the Beacon Society. Denny has said he wants no plaque or certificate but the Board reports a donation of \$200 to the Beacon Society in his name. Denny extended his thanks to the Society and thanked the Board and Committee members for their support. Carla thanked him again for his support of Sherlockians.

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 am.

These minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by Deborah Clark, Percy Phelps, Secretary

Beacon Society Financial Report 2019

12-31-18	Starting Balance	\$33,128.13
<u>Income</u>	Donations J. Stauber Grant	8,505.57
	Donations J. Senter Prize	8,111.00
	Donations Susan Diamond	2,029.10
	Pin Sale	10.00
	Total Income	\$ 18,655.67
<u>Expense</u>	Jan Stauber Grants	1,201.88
	Beacon Award M.McClure	221.00
	BSJ Subscription M.McClure	41.95
	Serpentine Muse M.McClure	20.00
	Postage M.McClure Plaque	13.70
	Susan Z. Diamond Plaque	105.00
	Junior Sherlockian Society	514.91*
	Go Daddy - Internet	114.02
	New check order	18.95
	PayPal Fees	92.56
	Book labels	46.59
	Paver-SH Statue, IL	150.00
	Total Expense	<u>\$2,540.56</u>
12-31-19	Balance	\$49,243.24
	Outstanding Grants 2018 (5)	\$1,952.00
	Outstanding Grants 2019 (3)	<u>1,500.00</u>
		\$3,452.00

*Junior Sherlockian Society expenses includes Flywheel host service \$150, BSI Dinner packets with promotional items (nickels, bags, cards, etc.) \$364.91

R.Kitts, Bursar 1-18-20

The Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award 2019 Report

January 18th, 2020

New York City, New York

The Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Society Award Committee Members

Shannon Carlisle

Francine Kitts

Peggy Perdue

Debbie Clark

Art Renkwitz, Awards Chair

Report

1. The four nominees were given careful consideration by the Beacon Society Awards Committee. Each member read, evaluated, rated, and then ranked the order of their preference 1 – 4.
2. Persons who applied and were considered, but not selected for the Beacon Award were notified.
3. The winner of the 2019 Beacon Society Award is Derrick Belanger of Broomfield, CO. Derrick is a High School Special Education teacher at Horizon High School in Thornton, Colorado. He is also an author of Sherlock Holmes books for children/young adults (The MacDougall Twins with Sherlock Holmes series) and adults (*Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Peculiar Provenance*). He gives author talks at schools throughout the year, and has developed a Sherlock Holmes mystery unit where students, in a 5th Grade classroom, complete a mystery writing project.

Mr. Belanger has made it one of his missions in life to introduce young people to Sherlock Holmes. He specifically created the MacDougall Twins series to introduce young readers to Sherlock Holmes through the eyes of the ten-year-old twin detectives who are the series' main characters. He also created the short story anthology The Irregular Adventures of Sherlock Holmes to introduce students to Sherlock Holmes and give them a chance to write their own pastiches with the character. He lectures to students about the importance of thinking like Sherlock Holmes in analyzing assignments and how that can help them be more successful in school.

Derrick is an outstanding proponent of all things Sherlockian and is universally respected and loved by hundreds of students and their parents.

4. My sincere thanks are expressed to the committee members. Each of who have served with distinction. Their thoughtful reviews, evaluations, and counsel have enabled our charge to be achieved.

2020 Report of the Communications Committee and *BeaconSociety.com*

As always, the committee focused on two main objectives during 2019: getting the word out about the Jan Stauber Grant and the Beacon Award, and the website, www.beaconsociety.com.

For the first objective, 3 separate mailings concerning the Society were distributed. In the third week of January 2019, a mailing was sent out to announce the availability of the Jan Stauber Grants for the calendar year 2019. In the last week of June 2019, a mailing was sent out to announce the 2019 winners of the Jan Stauber grants for the calendar year 2019.

In August 2019, a mailing was distributed asking for nominations for the annual Beacon Award. The mailings were sent to:

- National and all state/province Library Associations in U.S. and Canada
- National and all state/province Education Associations in U.S. and Canada
- All active scion societies in U.S. and Canada
- Children museum and theaters throughout the U.S.
- Members of the Beacon Society

Mailings were done electronically where email addresses were available.

In addition, the three announcements were posted on our Facebook site, as well as our beaconsociety.com website.

The website continues to be explored and used by hundreds of Sherlockians each week. Rusty and I continue to maintain the site, adding information on the Senter essay contest, making it easier to find the Junior Sherlockian site from our main page, and maintaining the list of those who provided support to the Society.

97 Sherlockians have now completed the entire Fortescue Scholarship Examination, which we continue to maintain on the website.

We continue to use the website as our primary source of information, backed up by our Facebook page.



Stephen Mason, ASH

Chair, Beacon Communications Committee – The Beacon Webmaster

January 18, 2020

2020 Beacon Society Fundraising Committee Report

The Beacon Society had a very successful year in 2019, raising \$18,645.67. A special thank you goes out to my committee, Carla Coupe, David McAllister, Ashley Polasek, and Liza Potts. Also, thank you so much to everyone who donated or even just passed information along about the Beacons.

A large portion of this year's funds came from Carolyn Senter (and her friends and family) in honor of her late husband Joel Senter. These were used to establish the new essay contest.

Letters have been deployed once again in the BSI Weekend Swag bags for The Woman, the dinner, and the Gaslight Gala. Printing, envelopes, and labels this year were donated by myself.

221B Con has once again selected the Beacon Society as their charity this year. There will be a specially ticketed event at the con, as well as another silent auction. Once again we will be looking for any Sherlockian treasures anyone would like to donate for the auction, please see Heather or myself for more information.

It should be noted that while we blew our goal of \$14,000 out of the water, some of those donations are not things we can count on in the future.

The Fundraising Committee is setting a goal of \$9,000 for 2020.

Respectively submitted,

Crystal L. Noll

Crystal L. Noll
Fundraising Committee Chair

2019 Annual Report of the Grants Committee

The Grants Committee is responsible for managing and awarding Jan Stauber Grants. In 2019, the Grants Committee members were: Heather Holloway, Chrys Kegley, Richard Kitts, Dee Dee Headings, Steve Mason, and myself.

In 2019, we received 5 grant applications, all of which were approved. We awarded a total of \$2,201.88. Unfortunately, this was well under the funds that we had available. Special thanks go to Steve Mason for the promotion of the Grants Program. And a special thanks to Scott Monty and Burt Wolder who recently aired an episode of I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere which discussed and promoted the Jan Stauber Grant Program and the work of the Beacon Society.

The 2019 review process was thorough and expeditious. The committee did an outstanding job, and I'm grateful for all their efforts.

Since most of the grants were for programs to be completed in the first part of this year, we have yet to receive any of the final reports for the 2019 grant year. These reports will be posted on our website once they are submitted in final form.

Reports were received for all but 4 of the 2018 grants that were given out. Some recipients were not able to complete their projects in the projected time frame. We have reached out to these grantees and are waiting for their final grant reports.

The application period will open by the end of January for the 2020 Stauber Grants. Applications must be received by May 1 but may be submitted at any time. The forms and all pertinent information are on our website BeaconSociety.com. This year the maximum grant amount is again \$600. Please contact schools, libraries, and other appropriate organizations in your communities and encourage them to apply. All questions about grants and the actual applications should be sent to the Grants Committee Chair, Cindy Brown; her contact information is on the form on our website.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Brown, Crew of the Barque Lone Star
Grants Committee Chair

**Junior Sherlockian Society's Annual Report
for the Beacon Society**

submitted by Shannon Carlisle, Committee Chair
January 2020

Committee Members- Alex Katz, Jen Kneeland, and Greg Ruby

Celebrating Our 2nd Birthday and New Tasks

On August 9th, 2019, the 221st day of the year, the Junior Sherlockian Society celebrated its second birthday. The program continues to invite children and youth to complete Junior Sherlockian Training- an in-depth study of Sherlock Holmes's character traits, observational skills, capacity for critical thought, and inductive and deductive reasoning. During the online training, Junior Sherlockians-in-Training complete the 2-2-1-b tasks to *explore, experience, and extend* their understanding and appreciation of the great detective. Upon completion of the tasks and submission of "training evidence," a certificate of completion is granted.

To support Junior Sherlockians-in-Training, new tasks were added.

- In "The Final Problem," Professor James Moriarty, the Napoleon of crime, and Sherlock Holmes finally meet. Gather a group of friends and/or family members and perform Donald Novorsky's adaptation of the short story.
- Read the newest *Baker Street Elementary* comics by Joe Fay, Steve Mason, and Rusty Mason. The comic strip chronicles Sherlock Holmes and John Watson's Victorian adventures if they had attended the same grade school.

Promoting the Junior Sherlockian Society (JSS)

January 2019

New York City, NY

516 JSS wooden nickels were distributed through the BSI, The Woman, and the Gaslight Gala dinner packets. Recipients were encouraged to share the nickels with children and youth and encourage them to participate in Junior Sherlockian training. (Throughout the year, coins were also distributed to Derrick Belanger (40), Rob Nunn (30), and Denny Dobry (30) for them to share with children and youth.)

March 2019

Dayton, OH

2020 Report of the Program Committee

Rob Nunn, Chair
Derrick Belanger
Elaine Coppola
Beth Gallego
Francine Kitts

This year has been a relatively quiet one for the Program Committee.

We consulted with the R. Joel Senter Essay Contest Committee on the 4th through 6th grade students' application packages.

We continue to work on a comprehensive listing and biographies of all previous Beacon Award recipients, the final product to be included in Ross Davies' 2020 Baker Street Almanac.

In the coming year, we plan to update the Beacon Booklist on the website and have offered to assist Steve Mason with assembly and distribution of the library display kits.

Rob Nunn
Chair, Beacon Program Committee
January 18, 2020
