

"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 3, NUMBER 4 – December, 2019



From the Desk of the Headlight

Your Board of Directors has been quite busy since our last Newsletter. We have made changes to two of our existing programs and have added a brand-new program.

BEACON SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

Mark your calendar and plan to attend The Society's annual meeting which will be held on Saturday, January 18th at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City. The Board will meet at 8:30 am and the General meeting will be held from 9:30 to 10:30 am. The room at the Roosevelt Hotel will be announced later.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



GET INVOLVED!

THE 2019 JAN STAUBER GRANTS ★

The Board of Directors have approved increasing the Jan Stauber Grant allocation from \$600 to \$750.

Applications for the 2020 Grants may be submitted now until May 31, 2020.

The Grant application information for the 2020 Jan Stauber Grant program can be found at our Website www.beaconsociety.com.

The Grantees of the 2019 Jan Stauber Grant program can also be found at our Website.



THE R. JOEL SENTER SR. MEMORIAL PRIZE ESSAY CONTEST



If you have been following along with our activities this year, you will know that Carolyn Senter approached the Beacon Society to set up a program that would be an instrument through which her husband Joel's contribution to the Sherlockian world would be remembered.



The result was the creation ***R. Joel Senter Sr. Memorial Prize Essay Contest***. Carolyn and many of Joel's friends stepped up to fund the program.

The Society Board of Directors has voted to fund the program going forward, relieving Carolyn of the responsibility, although she has indicated that she will continue to contribute.

The contest provides cash awards, and is for students in the 4th to 12th grades and the details may be found at our Website www.beaconsociety.com.

Applications are currently being accepted.

LIBRARY DISPLAY CASE PROGRAM



Our imaginative and creative Communications Chair, Steve Mason, has come up with a great idea to help keep green the memory of the Master.

Based on a program that Steve has conducted for a number of years in his hometown libraries, he has proposed having the Beacon Society put together Sherlockian/ Doylean/ Canonical display packages to be distributed to local libraries through Sherlockians for their use in promoting the reading of the Canon.

The package would also include sample presentations that can be used at the library or other events.

The Board of Directors has voted enthusiastically to fund the program. Initially, putting together the program will be a joint effort of the Grant, Program and Communications Committees, and spearheaded by Steve.

Its success will rely VERY heavily on Beaconites and other Sherlockians to get out to their local libraries to promote the program.

More details will be made available around March of next year.

Example of a Sherlockian Library display, Cowles Library



YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT



The Board of Directors cannot be more grateful to the many generous Sherlockians who have financially supported the Society.

As a result, the Society is in its most stable financial position that it has ever been.

My personal thanks to our Fund-Raising Committee chaired by Crystal Noll.

Now that doesn't mean we won't welcome your continued donations.

As we promote our programs, continuing financial support will be needed.

It is just gratifying that you, our benefactors, have made our efforts possible.

Continue to help us to keep green the memory of the Master!



THE JUNIOR SHERLOCKIAN SOCIETY

Now entering their 4th year of operation, the Junior Sherlockian Society continues to bring youth to Sherlock Holmes.



Our continued thanks and admiration to Shannon Carlisle and her Committee for their dedication and accomplishments.

Encourage your young ones to check out the Society at www.juniorsherlockian.com



THE SUSAN Z. DIAMOND BEACON AWARD



Each year the Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award is given to an individual, scion society, or organization that has made a significant contribution to exposing young people to the study of Sherlock Holmes stories.

Nominees may be of any profession, but they must have made a significant contribution to exposing young people to the stories of Sherlock Holmes.

An applicant may either be nominated by another person or may apply himself/herself. A group or scion society may be nominated. A project(s) must be completed before applying for the Beacon Award.

The application deadline for the 2019 Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award has passed, (November 15th) and the Awards Committee is in the process of selecting the winner. The successful candidate will be announced at the Beacon Society General Meeting on January 18, 2020 in New York City.

Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award nominations may be submitted all year. Go to our Website for the application form and additional details. www.beaconsociety.com.



Michael McClure, 2018 Recipient



HALF TIME PEP TALK



Well it really isn't half-time anywhere, unless you happen to be watching a football game while you are reading this, but this is a PEP TALK!



The Society has been very successful in raising money and developing some fantastic programs to bring Sherlock Holmes to our youth.

But all these fine efforts are for naught if we don't get the word out.

The Communications Committee does a stellar job of contacting all parties of interest through e-mail announcements, but as all of us know, we are flooded with e-mails every day, and many of them are ignored or soon forgotten.

SO, WHAT CAN I DO?

THE 2019 JAN STAUBER GRANTS

We all know some teachers or librarians among our family, friends and in our local communities.

We can expand our JSG applications by personally reaching out to them.

Run off copies of the application and deliver them in person. School administrations dictate a teacher's curriculum.



If you can create an opportunity to meet with an administrator or attend a School Board meeting, you may be able to convince them of the merits of applying for a Grant.

THE R. JOEL SENTER SR. MEMORIAL PRIZE ESSAY CONTEST

The same goes for the Essay contest, but we don't have to limit our efforts to contacting teachers. Most of us have relatives or friends with school aged children. Get out and tell them about the contest. There are cash prizes (\$300 for first place, \$200 for second and \$100 for third).



All applicants must have an adult sponsor, and a sponsor can only advise 3 applicants.

As a practical matter, it was structured this way to discourage teachers from making the contest a class assignment, resulting in the review committee being overwhelmed by applicants. Teachers can still encourage the parents of their students to sponsor their children.

LIBRARY DISPLAY CASE PROGRAM

Of the three programs that I have hi-lighted here, the Library Display Case program is the one in most need of personal involvement. And, it is an easy sell. Once the program is ready to launch (March 2020), all you would have to do is to stop by your local library and ask: "Can we help you set up a display promoting Sherlock Holmes?"

I can't imagine that you would be turned down! Details on the logistics of signing up a library and getting materials to them will be forthcoming. However, there is something you can do NOW!

Steve Mason is looking for donations of paraphernalia to be included in the packages. Anything that would be appropriate for a display case such as books with graphic covers, ephemera, cassette/VHS boxes/DVD covers, photos, statuettes, stuffed animals, etc. Steve will gladly accept them at the January meeting in New York. If you are not going to New York or know anyone who can take the items for you, contact me and we will see what we can do to get them.

At the risk of being sued for Copyright infringement, I leave you with:

JUST DO IT!



JoAnn and I extend to you and your families our warmest wishes for a:



Merry Christmas
Happy Hanukkah
Happy Kwanzaa

and a Happy and Blessed New Year.

Thanks to all of you who continue to support the Beacon Society!

Keeping green the memory of the Master,

**I remain,
Denny Dobry, BSI
Headlight**

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me (dendobry@ptd.net)

