

"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 4, NUMBER 3 – September, 2020



From the Desk of the Headlight

"Here, though the world explode, these two survive,
And it is always eighteen ninety-five."

Vincent Starrett's timeless words from "221B" certainly ring true in today's world, and the Sherlockian world survives as evident by the numerous on-line gatherings and events. And the Beacon Society's activities have not been curtailed as you will see when reading our current newsletter.

NEW BEACON SOCIETY OFFICERS ELECTED

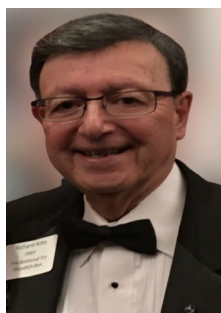


The term of service of the existing Beacon Society Officers expire on September 30, 2020.

The Beacon membership has elected Carla Coupe as the new Head Light, Debbie Clark the new Percy Phelps and re-elected Dick Kitts as Bursar.



My congratulations to the new officers, and I am confident that they will serve with distinction and honor, and they will be strongly supported by the Committee Chairpersons.



THE SUSAN Z. DIAMOND BEACON AWARD

As we begin another school year, you or someone you know may have engaged students in a Sherlock Holmes related project that qualifies for the Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award, or may be planning such a project for the upcoming school year, that will be completed before the November 15th deadline.

If so, please review the nomination form and submit your materials to The Beacon Society - The Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award.

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 Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award.



The Award is named for Susan Z. Diamond, a wonderful Sherlockian, who devoted her life to the education of younger people about Sherlock Holmes. Susan led the Beacon Society for several years, as well as managed the Jan Stauber Grant program for the Society.

Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award nominations may be submitted all year. The closing date for evaluation during the current review cycle is November 15, 2020. Once the evaluation has been completed, the winner will be notified in December 2020. Nominations made after the deadline will be held for evaluation in 2021.

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.



Derrick Belanger – 2019 Award Winner

Each Award consists of a:

- Certificate and a check for \$221
- One-year Serpentine Muse and The Baker Street Journal subscription to the recipient or a school/organization of the recipient's choice.
- Summary of the winner's activity on the Beacon Society website

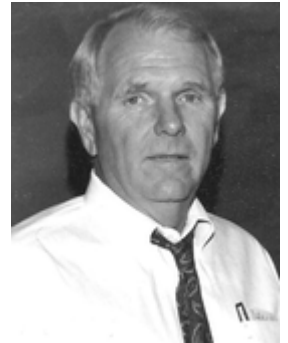
The Beacon Society is a scion society of The Baker Street Irregulars, an international organization of Sherlock Holmes enthusiasts founded in 1934 by Christopher Morley. The Irregulars (known as the BSI) meet every January in New York City for a weekend of celebration and study.

An application form, guidelines and other details about the Beacon Award may be obtained at the society's website,

<http://www.beaconsociety.com/the-beacon-award.html>

Other teaching materials, information about the Society, and resources for educating students can be found at the Society's website,

<http://www.beaconsociety.com>



For more information about the Awards, contact Arthur Renkwitz at renkwitza@gmail.com.

THE R. JOEL SENTER SR. MEMORIAL PRIZE ESSAY CONTEST

If you recall Carolyn Senter approached the Beacon Society to setup a program that would be an instrument through which her husband Joel's contribution to the Sherlockian world would be remembered. Carolyn has already provided funding for the program for years to come, and the Board of Directors has voted to fund the program as needed going forward.

We have successfully concluded the first year of the program as previously reported in this newsletter and currently on the Website.

Our Communications Chair, Steve Mason, has done a magnificent job in producing a document commemorating the inaugural year of the contest.

[http://www.beaconsociety.com/uploads/3/7/3/8/37380505/2020_senter_essay_award_winners -- essays.pdf](http://www.beaconsociety.com/uploads/3/7/3/8/37380505/2020_senter_essay_award_winners_-_essays.pdf)

The Program Committee undertook the task of revising the Application Booklets to improve the functionality of the documents with the goal of encouraging more students to participate.

Rob Nunn, Derrick Belanger and Pam Mason (recruited as a ringer by Rob for one of the age group's section) did a fantastic job at producing a very workable product.

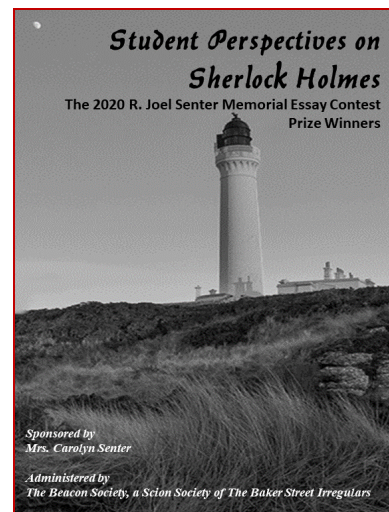
Our Communication Chair, Steve Mason, structured the new document for our Website in a user-friendly format.

The contest provides cash awards and is for students in the 4th to 12th grades.

Applications are currently open **NOW!** Check out the Link at:

<https://www.beaconsociety.com/joel-senter-essay-contest.html>

I believe that the number of applicants will go up significantly in the years to come. With many families home-schooling, this would be a great opportunity for parents to get their children involved. As **Beaconites** we need to get the word around.



THE 2020 JAN STAUBER GRANTS

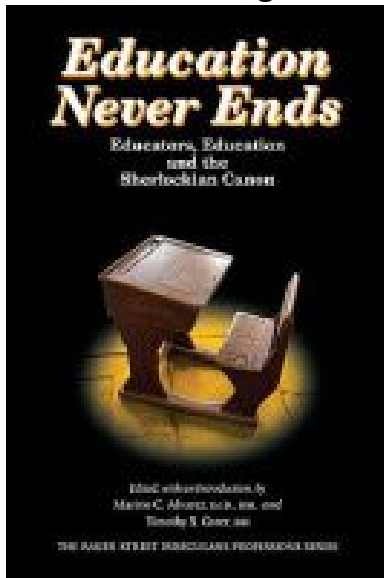
Grant Applications can be submitted for the 2021 Jan Stauber Grant Program from now until the Deadline date of May 1, 2021.

The maximum grant amount is \$750 to provide materials for teachers, librarians and any program directors to encourage young people to get involved with the world of Sherlock Holmes.

The Board of Directors also approved providing a copy of the Baker Street Irregulars Press 2019 publication *Education Never*



Ends to each JSG applicant that submits their program's final report to the JSG Committee.



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

The Grantees of the 2019 Jan Stauber Grant program can be found at our Website. The 2020 Grantees has been posted to our website.

LIBRARY DISPLAY CASE PROGRAM

The Library Display Case program is the only Beacon Society program that has been impacted by the Pandemic.

Not to be deterred, Communications Chair, Steve Mason, has been busy readying materials to be included the Library Display Case *'Care-Packages'*.



Putting together the program will be a joint effort of the Grant, Program and Communications Committees, and spearheaded by Steve.

Once the program is ready to launch, all you would have to do is to stop by your local library and ask: "Can we help your setup 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.

Watch your email for the kickoff date announcement and instructions.



THE JUNIOR SHERLOCKIAN SOCIETY

Now in their 4th year of operation, the Junior Sherlockian Society continues to bring youth to Sherlock Holmes. Chair Shannon Carlisle reported at the Annual Meeting that the Junior Sherlockian Society Website is averaging around 4500 hits/month. That's right! 4500 per month.

Thanks to Shannon and her Committee, the JSS continues to be one of the crown jewels of the Beacon Society.

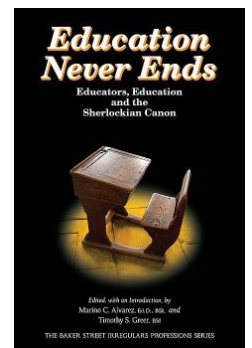
We can do our part to promote the Junior Sherlockian Society. Because many in-house programs at libraries have been curtailed because of the Pandemic, it creates a great opportunity for librarians to take advantage of the JSS as an on-line program. Contact your local library's youth program coordinators and inform them of the great program just waiting on-line for them to take advantage of.

As mentioned in a previous article, the Beacon Society will be presenting copies of the BSI Press's *Education Never Ends* to successful Jan Stauber Grant applicants.

Shannon Carlisle, our Junior Sherlockian Society Chair, is one of the contributors along with a number of other Beaconites.

Copies of the book are available for sale at

<https://bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/books/>.

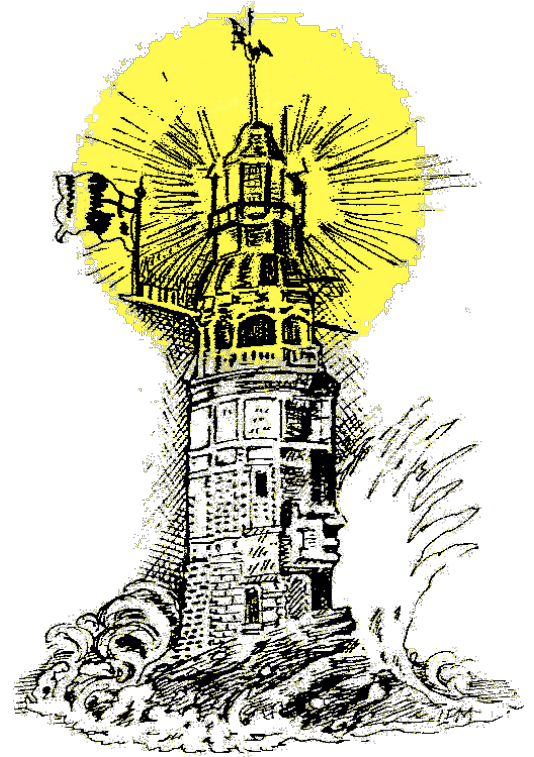


It is a great read for Sherlockians and Sherlockian educators. Encourage your young ones to check out the Junior Sherlockian Society at:

www.juniorsherlockian.com

YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Just a reminder, we cannot continue our work of *'Keeping Green the Memory of the Master'* without your continued financial support.



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

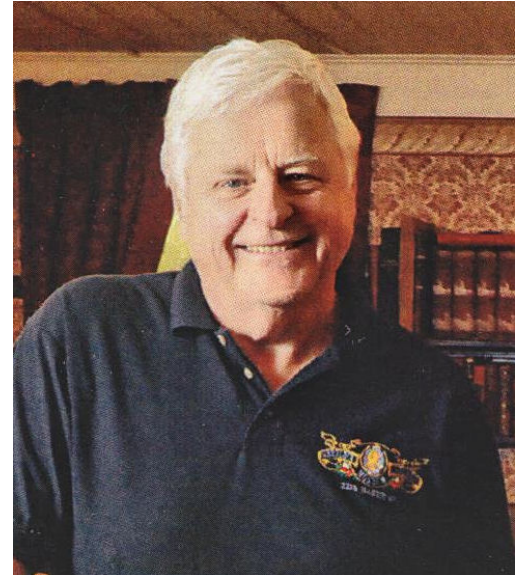
REFLECTIONS ON THE PAST 3 YEARS

It's hard to believe that 3 years have passed since Susan Diamond approached me to consider serving as the Head Light of the Beacon Society.

It has been a rewarding experience for me, and with support of our Board of Directors and membership, the Society continues to be an effective.

We have had a number of significant achievements over the last three years:

- We revised the By-Laws to restrict committee membership to 4 members plus the chairperson, creating a more efficient work arrangement. In the past, reaching decisions on committees with 10 or more members was getting bogged down and dragged out;
- We also revised the By-laws to not exclude Jan Stauber Grant applications from non-United States organizations;
- The Board of Directors increased the amount of the Jan Stauber Grants from \$500 to \$600 and now to \$750;
- At the untimely passing of Beacon Society co-founder, Susan Diamond, the Board of Directors renamed the Beacon Award for outstanding contribution to exposing young people to the reading of Sherlock Holmes stories, to the *Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award*;
- In memory of her late husband, Joel, Carolyn Senter encouraged the Board of Directors to establish the R. Joel Senter Sr. Memorial Essay Contest; and
- Thanks to the efforts of our Fund-Raising Committee and contributions from Carolyn Senter and friends, the Beacon Society Treasury is very healthy with a current balance exceeding \$40,000.



I would like to express my deepest gratitude to those members of the Board of Directors who just quietly did their jobs with little prompting and help from me.

Your efforts made my job so very easy.

Although I'm stepping down as Head-Light, leaving the Society in the very capable hands of Carla Coupe, I plan to stay involved with the Society.

With the approval of the new Board of Directors, I would ask to be appointed as a Director-at-Large to coordinate the administration of the R. Joel Senter Sr. Memorial Essay Contest.

If as I suspect the program will grow, I would like to be involved with overseeing that growth, hopefully to a point, that an Essay Contest Stand-Alone Committee is created.

It has been my sincerest pleasure and honor to serve as your Beacon Society Head-Light.

Keeping Green the Memory of the Master,
I remain,

Denny Dobry, BS9

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

