

"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 4 – December, 2020



From the Desk of the Headlight

For so many of us, this year has been one of loss and isolation. To counter that, I've been stretching my gratitude wings by trying to recognize and appreciate all the positives in my life, no matter how small. A large positive is having the time to re-read the Canon, which always recalls the warmth and joy of visiting old friends. I was also honored to be elected Head-Light of the Beacon Society.

Of course, this is only a positive if I can work with a team of passionate and efficient people, so I'm grateful for my fellow officers, Debbie Clark (Percy Phelps) and Richard Kitts (Bursar), and for all our committee chairs who agreed to stay on: Cindy Brown (Grants), Shannon Carlisle (Junior Sherlockian Society), Steve Mason (Communications), Crystal Noll (Fundraising), and Rob Nunn (Programming). After exemplary service, Art Renkowitz is stepping down as Chair of the Awards committee. I'd like to welcome his replacement, Dan Andriacco.

Please join me in sending kudos and thanks to Head-Light Emeritus Denny Dobry, Past-Percy-Phelps Heather Holloway, and Ex-Awards Chair Art Renkowitz. Their enthusiasm and energy helped The Beacon Society grow stronger and bring the Canon to more young people.

BIRTHDAY WEEKEND UPDATE

One upcoming change is that the Birthday Weekend festivities that usually take place in New York City will be held virtually. This includes our annual meeting, scheduled for Saturday, January 9th, at 10 am EST. Please check our website (www.beaconsociety.com) or you can email Steve Mason (mason.steve8080@gmail.com) for the time and for instructions on how to attend.



THE SUSAN Z. DIAMOND BEACON AWARD

Art Renkwitz, Chair of the Awards Committee, and the Beacon Society is proud to announce this year's Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award winner:

David Fake of Wyomising, PA.

Congratulations, David!

David is a previous Jan Stauber Grant recipient. He has taught Language Arts at Tulpehocken Junior High for 35 years and has included canonical stories in his classes—introducing almost 3,000 students to Sherlock Holmes.

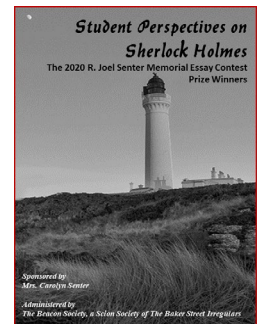


David will receive his plaque at our virtual annual meeting. Thank you, Denny, for nominating David, and thank you, Art and all the committee members. If you know of someone who is helping bring the Canon to young people, please nominate them for next year's award.

THE R. JOEL SENTER, SR. MEMORIAL PRIZE ESSAY CONTEST

The R. Joel Senter, Sr. Essay Contest has entered its second year. Students in the 4th through the 12th grades are eligible, and more information on entering the contest is available at our website. We are fortunate that Head-Light Emeritus Denny Dobry has accepted a position as Director-at-Large, in order to shepherd the essay contest through the next year (and perhaps longer, if we're lucky).

The deadline for entries for this year is February 1, 2021. Please see our website (<https://www.beaconsociety.com/joel-senter-essay-contest.html>) for all the details and instructions. Email Denny at dendobry@ptd.net if you have any questions.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications:

The Communications Committee continues their sterling work on keeping up the website and sending out email blasts. This fall, Steve Mason spearheaded the creation of Sherlock's Spotlight, an e-gazette for younger Sherlockians.

Sherlock's Spotlight contains a story discussion, puzzles, quizzes, cartoons, and information on what life was like in England during the stories. The first issue was well received, and I'm looking forward to the next one.

<https://www.beaconsociety.com/sherlocks-spotlight-gazette.html>

For those who have completed your Fortescue Scholarship exams and would like to be re-certified, the new 2021 exam is available at our website.

<https://www.beaconsociety.com/fortescue-scholarship-exams.html>

Fundraising:

It's been a rough year for everyone, and 221B Con—one of our biggest contributors—wasn't held. Crystal Noll, Chair of Fundraising, has focused on email reminders.

We are grateful to those who have already responded to our letters. Remember, it's **NEVER TOO LATE** to give!

<https://www.beaconsociety.com/how-to-support-the-society.html>



Grants:

Cindy Brown, Chair of the Grants Committee, reported that they have awarded ten Jan Stauber Grants so far this year, and would like to award more. These grants provide financial assistance to educators and others who are bringing Holmes to young people.

They are working with the Communications Committee to spread the word about these grants. Applications and the requirements are on our website.

<https://www.beaconsociety.com/the-jan-stauber-grant.html>

Junior Sherlockian Society:

Under the capable leadership of Shannon Carlisle, The Junior Sherlockian Society is now four years old and reaching more students every year.

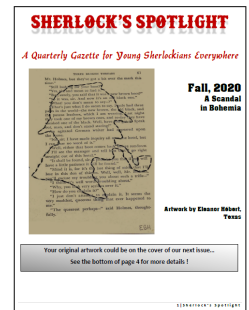


<https://juniorsherlockian.com/>

Programming:

For the Programming Committee, Rob Nunn reported that the Library Display Case Program is on hiatus until schools and libraries are open and safe.

In the meantime, he is working on Sherlock's Spotlight with Steve Mason.



There's nothing quite like encountering a multitude of challenges your first year on the job!

Despite these on-going problems, we all are working hard to maintain enthusiasm for our mission while acknowledging the current constraints everyone is experiencing and brainstorming ideas to extend ways to reach educators and young people.

I am happy to receive comments and suggestions and will always welcome people who want to get involved. Please contact me at headlight_beaconsociety@yahoo.com.

Keeping the Master's memory green,

Carla Kaessinger Coupe