

"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 5, NUMBER 2 – June, 2021

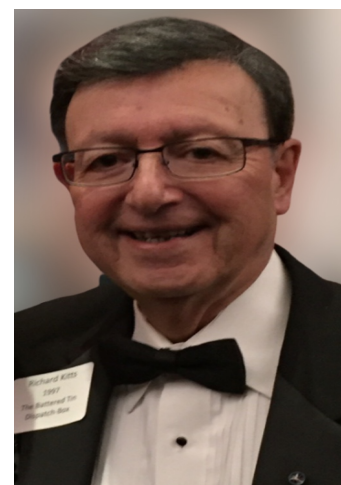


From the Desk of the Head-Light

As the world gradually re-opens, we're looking forward to resuming programs put on hold by the pandemic. But we have not been idle! Our committee members have been working diligently on the programs under their care and we have added a new webpage about Sherlockian Societies. Check out the details below.

You don't have to join a Beacon Society committee to make a difference, as Beacon Society member Francine Kitts shows. I'm always in awe at the creative and enthusiastic people who share our interest in and devotion to Sherlock Holmes.

Thank you, Francine and Dick!





MONROE TOWNSHIP LIBRARY DISPLAY

When we moved to NJ, we were delighted to learn that we lived a short walk to our beautiful Monroe Township Library. At the entrance to the library is a large display case behind glass doors. Over the years we've seen exhibits come and go. We finally decided it was time for us to step up to the plate. We took the scientific approach by walking around the house with our granddaughter, Scarlet, (we know you'd love her name), to decide which items would be displayed.

We hauled the items to the library and lovingly placed each item on the glass shelves, arranging and rearranging as we went along. All of a sudden, we realized that there weren't enough books. This was a library, after all. We headed back home to retrieve more books and placed them strategically here and there. We stood back and looked at the display, and our Sherlockian hearts knew it was complete.

—Francine Kitts.

R. JOEL SENTER, SR. ESSAY CONTEST

Now in its second year, the R. Joel Senter Sr. Essay Contest encourages students to read canonical stories and hone their writing and critical thinking skills. Winners receive recognition for their efforts, as well as prizes and certificates.

Congratulations to the 2021 contest winners!

7th - 9th Grade

1st Place - Kaitlyn Polchow, Spartanburg, SC

2nd Place - Ryan Foley, Cincinnati, OH

3rd Place (tie) - Emily Genter, King George, VA

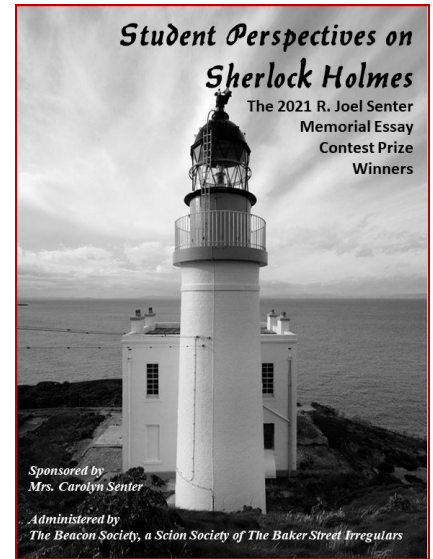
3rd Place (tie) - Sabrina Kim, Austin, TX

10th - 12th Grade

1st Place - Juliana Scheopner, Omaha, NE

2nd Place - Eleanor Hebert, Fairview, TX

3rd Place - Andrew Quinones, Benton Harbor, MI



I encourage everyone to read their interesting and thoughtful essays included in the .pdf Student Perspectives on Sherlock Holmes: The 2021 R. Joel Senter Memorial Essay Contest Prize Winners. You can find this on the Beacon Society website: <https://www.beaconsociety.com/past-senter-essay-contest-winners.html>

And I'd also like to thank the Awards Committee members for their hard work in reading and evaluating all the submissions, and Steve Mason for assembling the essays and creating the pdf.

NEW SHERLOCKIAN SOCIETIES WEBPAGE

The Beacon Society has launched a webpage to promote local Sherlockian groups and societies to all who are interested in the great detective. You can reach the page at

<http://SherlockianSocieties.com> or through the Beacon Society website, www.beaconsociety.com.



This webpage offers a searchable map (with contact information on existing societies), newsletters and journals from participating groups, advice on forming a local club, a monthly spotlight on the activities of various societies, as well as valuable links that provide important resources for Sherlockian societies.

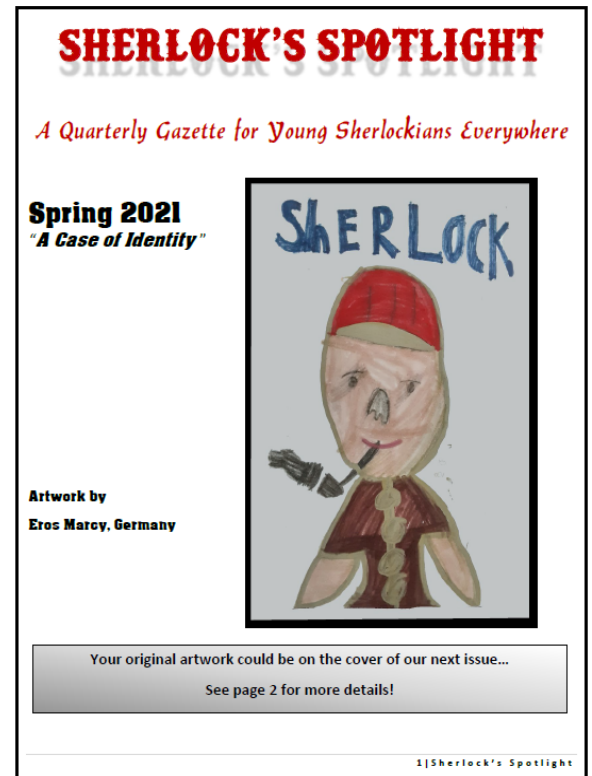
Our thanks go to Rob Nunn, Mike McSwiggin, Tamar Zeffren, Rusty Mason, Greg Ruby, and Steve Mason for their efforts in creating this website. Contact Steve Mason (mason.steve8080@gmail.com) if you have suggestions for improving the webpage, including adding other items you believe would be helpful for Sherlockian societies.

SHERLOCK'S SPOTLIGHT

On May 1, we issued our third installment of Sherlock's Spotlight, a gazette for younger Sherlockians. All three issues are available on our website.

This issue includes articles on Mrs. Hudson, "A Case of Identity", Scotland Yard and Inspector Lestrade, "Where Did Sherlock Holmes Go to School?", as well as regular monthly features and puzzles. Please distribute the gazette to any younger Sherlockians you may know.

All Beacon Society members are welcome to submit contributions to the gazette (such as a short mystery, essay, pastiche, etc.). Please keep the subject matter suitable for our younger Sherlockians.

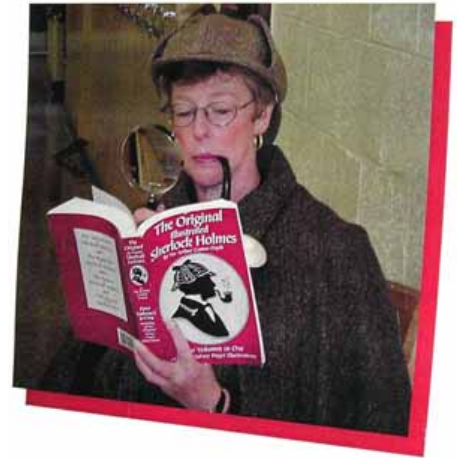


THE JAN STAUBER GRANT PROGRAM

The Jan Stauber Grant program provides funding to help organizations pay for programs and resources focusing on Sherlock Holmes and the Canon. The Grants Committee received eight applications for the year 2021 and has approved all eight for funding.

This year's Jan Stauber Grants will support several schools, a volunteer

READ



reading program, a library, and other educational organizations.

Thanks to all the Grants committee members, including Chair Cindy Brown, for their excellent work in evaluating the applications and awarding grants.

You can see more information about the grant program, and a summary of many of the prior year projects the Beacon Society has helped fund at <https://www.beaconsociety.com/the-jan-stauber-grant.html>

THE SUSAN Z. DIAMOND BEACON AWARD

This annual award recognizes individuals who have done an exemplary job bringing the Canon to young people. Do you know someone who fits the bill?

Please nominate them by completing the form you can find at <https://www.beaconsociety.com/the-beacon-award.html>.

Nominations are accepted until November 15th, but we encourage you to nominate early and nominate often.



The limitations needed during the pandemic have required some changes in the way the Beacon Society approaches its mission. They have also inspired creative solutions and new content for our website, allowing us to step out of our well-trodden paths and, like Sherlock Holmes, look at our programs with fresh eyes. I hope this will spark more ways to bring the Canon to others, especially young people.

If you'd like to comment on an existing program or suggest a new project, please email me at headlight_beaconsociety@yahoo.com. And we always welcome folks who would like to volunteer!

Keeping green the memory of the Master,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carla Kaessinger Coupe". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Carla Kaessinger Coupe