

"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 7, NUMBER 2 – June, 2023



From the Desk of the Head-Light

In the words of the inimitable Alice Cooper:

School's out for summer

School's out forever

But how long until you hear "I'm bored?"

Then it's the perfect time to introduce to or reacquaint your bored young person with Sherlock Holmes. There's a version for everyone: the Canon, pastiches, movies, cartoons, TV shows.... The list goes on and on!

Don't know where to begin? Check out The Beacon Society's webpage for ideas and recommendations. You can find it here:

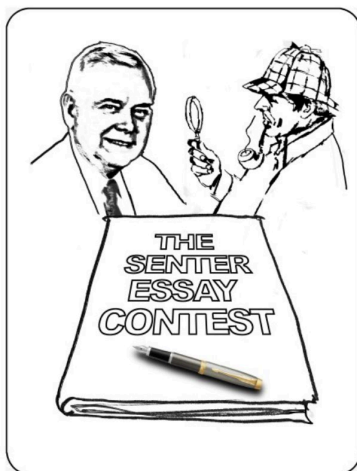
[The Beacon Society](#)



Many of you are familiar with Nancy Springer's Enola Holmes books, as well as the Enola Holmes movies on Netflix. We're thrilled to announce our newest contest: the Nancy Springer Fiction Writing Contest! Ms Springer has graciously agreed to let us include her name in our contest, which will have a similar structure to the R. Joel Senter, Sr. Memorial Essay Contest, and will include certificates and monetary awards to the winners of each category. Details will be on our website soon.

What's going on in The Beacon Society? You don't have to wait for a newsletter. Check out the meeting minutes and committee reports on our website at:

<https://www.beaconsociety.com/about-the-beacon-society-newsletters-bylaws-meeting-minutes.html>



Over the years, The Beacon Society has established many programs and projects to bring the Canon to young people. We are proud to administer Jan Stauber Grants, the Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award, the Fortescue Scholarship Exams, and the R. Joel Senter, Sr. Memorial Essay Contest. Our Library Display program, *Sherlock's Spotlight* gazette, and Society Locator page spread the word about Sherlock Holmes and encourage individual Sherlockians to get involved in our mission.

Our Comprehensive Look at the Stories of the Canon page consolidates a host of resources useful to those dipping their toes into Sherlockian waters for the first time, as well as students and seasoned canonical readers. There is something for everyone on these pages.

AWARDS

We're very proud of all the students who submitted essays to the R. Joel Senter, Sr. Memorial Essay Contest. This was our best year yet! In fact, there were so many good submissions that our readers had a tough time deciding on the top essays. Here are the winners:

4th–6th Grade:

First: Casey Moy, Cincinnati, OH
Second: Eliana Kwon, Cincinnati, OH
Third: Thomas Duh, West Chester, OH



7th–9th Grade:

First: Avery Piatt, Kennewick, WA
Second: Ryan Foley, Cincinnati, OH
Third: Conan Lamb, McGaheysville, VA



10th–12th Grade:

First: Sabrina Kim, Austin, TX
Second: Thomas Hébert, Fairview, TX
Third: Nicole Eutsler, Cincinnati, OH

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the readers who spent hours evaluating and scoring essays. We couldn't run the contest without you.

If you'd like to read the winning essays, they are available in a downloadable pdf booklet at The Beacon Society website:

[The Joel Senter Memorial Essay Contest](#)

Nominations for the 2023 Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award are now open. The winner of this award receives a certificate, a check for \$221, and a year's subscription to both *The Serpentine Muse* and *The Baker Street Journal*.

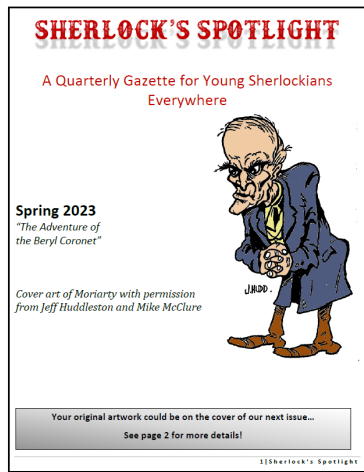
If you'd like to nominate a person, society, or other organization for their work in successfully bringing the Canon to young people, you have until November 15, 2023, to apply for consideration here:

[The Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award](#)

Communications

The Communications Committee is an essential part of The Beacon Society, coordinating many projects and ensuring accurate information reaches our supporters, as well as casual visitors.

The eleventh issue of *Sherlock's Spotlight*,



a gazette for younger Sherlockians, came out on May 1st. Filled with puzzles, games, and age-appropriate articles, *Sherlock's Spotlight* is a wonderful

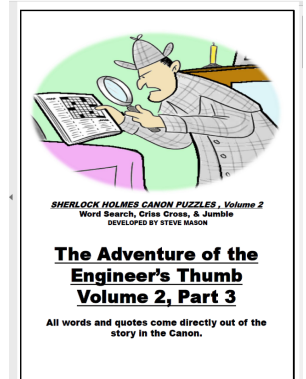
resource for encouraging young readers to explore the world of Sherlock Holmes. You can find copies here:

[Sherlock's Spotlight Gazette - The Beacon Society](#)

Additional information has been added to the Comprehensive Look at the Stories of the Sherlock Holmes Canon, a webpage providing a large amount of data on each story of the Canon. This is an invaluable resource for all Sherlockians.

[A Comprehensive Look at the Stories](#)

Need something fun to pass the time? Want to include an amusing activity for a meeting? Puzzles for all 60 stories of the Canon have now been posted to the website, including word search, kris-kross, and crossword puzzles.



[Canonical Puzzles](#)

Would you like to be able to use the title "Doctor of Sherlockiana"? Check out the Fortescue Scholarship Exam program. Several more people have completed the original or annual recertification exams, and you can join their august ranks upon completion. More information is available here:

[Fortescue Scholarship Exams](#)

Don't forget to check out the interactive map for locating Sherlockian Societies on our Sherlockian Society webpage. If you are interested in finding out if a society exists in a particular area, our map can help provide you with that information:

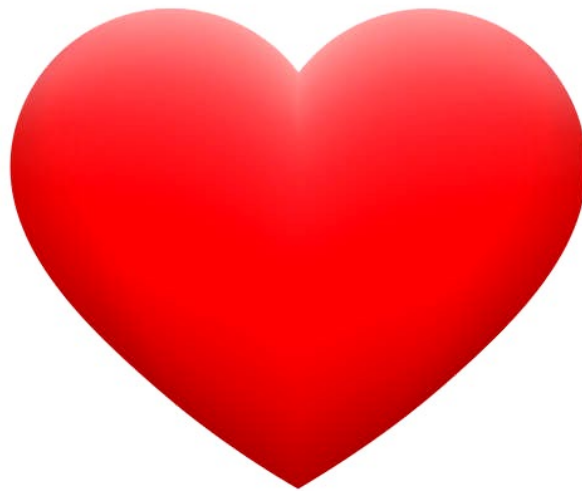
[Locating a Sherlockian Society Map - The Beacon Society](#)

Fundraising

Our Fundraising Committee is busy exploring a variety of new funding resources.

Of course, we rely on the generous supporters and donors who support The Beacon Society's mission.

Individual donations are the life-blood of our funding, but we're also fortunate to have the support of publishers, charitable trusts, and even conferences.



As always, we'd like to thank each and every one of our donors.

We appreciate your support, whether you're a single-time donor, or someone who contributes regularly.

You can find out how to donate here:

[Support the Beacon Society](#)



The Grants Committee evaluates applications for Jan Stauber Grants, which come from libraries, schools, theater groups, and other organizations and individuals who want to introduce their young people to the Canon.

This is a core component of The Beacon Society, and we have not only increased the amount that may be requested to \$1,000, we have also dispensed with the application deadline.

You may apply for a grant throughout the year.

Applications and requirements are available here:

[Jan Stauber Grants](#)

As of June 8, the committee has received six grant proposals, of which five have been approved for 2023. We're very excited about the programs supported by our grants.

One of the committee's ongoing projects is to find a way to provide books to juvenile detention centers. However, finding the right people to contact has been difficult.

If anyone has contacts in the juvenile justice system, please email committee chair Cindy Brown at:

epacpa@gmail.com.

Junior Sherlockian Society

The Junior Sherlockian Society encourages young people to explore the world of Sherlock Holmes, experience the canonical stories, extend their understanding and appreciation of Sherlock Holmes, and be recognized for their efforts by becoming a Junior Sherlockian.



You now have two ways to access The Junior Sherlockian Society website. One way is to go to the link at The Beacon Society website:

[Junior Sherlockian Society](#)

You can still use the juniorsherlockian.com web address, too.

Parents and guardians can now request a personalized completion certificate when their Junior Sherlockians are ready to “B” recognized. Over 400 certificates have already been awarded.

Our Programs

The Program Committee spent this quarter finalizing the proposal for an all-new student writing contest.

Derrick Belanger, with support from Anna Behrens, drafted contest rules for students in grades 7-9 and 10-12 as well as a grading rubric. This proposal was presented to the Board on May 1st and



was met with overwhelming support.

Enola Holmes author Nancy Springer has allowed us to name the contest in her honor. Early this fall, The Beacon

Society will launch the Nancy Springer Fiction Writing Contest. Look for more details soon.

In the meantime, remember that our Library Display Project is ready to help you set up a Sherlock-Holmes-themed display in a public or school library display case. We provide the essentials, such as posters and other graphic images, a selection of books, and a variety of memorabilia. Local scions or societies may request a free display box (one per scion or society) and then personalize your display with items from your own collections.

You can find out more about this project here:

[Beacon Society Library Display Project](#)

*For myself, my term of service
in India had trained me to
stand heat better than cold,
and a thermometer of 90 was
no hardship.*

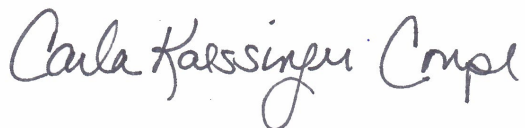
Dr Watson may have enjoyed the heat, but for those of us who aren't as fortunate, there's nothing as delightful as sitting in a shady spot and spending time with our canonical favorites.

As you enjoy the slower pace of summer, The Beacon Society will continue our work to bring Sherlock Holmes to young people, thanks to our members' hard work and generosity. 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.

And now for a cool lemonade and a journey to 1895

Keeping green the memory of the Master,



Carla Kaessinger Coupe