

THE BEACON SOCIETY
MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2019

9:30 AM, Saturday, January 18, 2020

Roosevelt Hotel, New York City

The Meeting was called to order by Head-Light Denny Dobry at 9:30 AM

2018 General Meeting Minutes – The Secretary (Percy Phelps), Heather Holloway, had not prepared the minutes from the 2019 Minutes. Approval of the minutes therefore were tabled.

FULL COMMITTEE REPORTS FOLLOW THESE MINUTES

2019 Treasurers Report

Dick Kitts, Bursar (Treasurer) reported that 2019 started with a Balance \$33,128.13, received Income of \$18,655.67 and paid \$2,540.56 in Expenses, leaving a balance in the Treasury of \$49,243.24.

Unpaid, outstanding expenses for uncompleted Jan Stauber Grants total \$3,452.00.

The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

Awards Committee - Art Renkwitz, Chairperson reported that the **2019 Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award Program** received four (4) applications. The Awards Committee chose ***Derrick Belanger*** of Broomfield, Colorado as the 2019 recipient of the **2019 Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award**. Derrick was present to receive a Certificate, a check for \$221 and year's subscription to the Baker Street Journal & the Serpentine News.

Communications Committee - Steve Mason, Chairperson reported that the Beacon Society Website and Facebook Page receives 100's of visitors each week. The Committee has focused on promoting the Jan Stauber Grant Program and the Susan Z. Diamond by sending multiple e-mails to numerous individuals and organizations. Information for the R. Joel Senter Memorial Essay Contest was posted this year and improvements were made to searchability of the Website.

Fundraising Committee - Crystal Noll, Chairperson reported that \$18,645.67 were received in donations in 2019, exceeding the budgeted amount of \$14,000. A large portion of the donations were from Carol Senter and friends in support of the R. Joel Senter Sr. Memorial Essay Contest. Once again, the 221B Con Board of Directors chose the Beacon Society as their charity of the year, resulting in a very generous donation. Solicitation letters were included in the Swag bags of the BSI Dinner, THE Woman dinner and the Gaslight Gala. The Fundraising Committee set a fundraising goal of \$9,000 for 2020.

Grants Committee - Cindy Brown, Chairperson reported that the Committee approve all five Jan Stauber Grant applications that were received for total amount to be awarded of \$2,201.88. The Committee is still waiting for 4 final reports from the 2018 Grant Program. Application period for the 2020 Grants Program open on January 31st and are due by May 1st.

Junior Sherlockian Committee - Alex Katz reported Chairperson Shannon Carlisle that the Junior Sherlockian Society (JSS) celebrated their 2nd birthday on August 9th (221st day of the year) 2019. Two optional new tasks were added to the Junior Sherlockian-in-Training curriculum. Wooden nickels promoting the JSS were distributed to attendees at the BSI Dinner, THE Woman dinner and the Gaslight Gala.

Programming Committee - Rob Nunn, Chairperson reported that the Committee assisted with compiling the application packages for the R. Joel Senter Memorial Essay Contest. The Committee has continued to work on the compilation of the biographies of all the previous Beacon Award winners.

Old Business:

Grant Allotment Revision - The Board of Directors approved increasing the Jan Stauber Grant allocation from \$600 to \$750, effective for the 2020 program.

R. Joel Senter, Sr. Program – The Board of Directors approved to finance going forward, the R. Joel Senter Sr. Essay Contest, supporting it as standard part of the Beacon Society program.

New Business:

Library Display Program - The Board of Directors approved the initiation of a Library Display Program, budgeting \$1,500 for the initial year. Steve Mason championed the program based on the past efforts of his Scion Society in Texas. Beaconites will be encouraged to contact their local libraries to offer them materials for a display case to promote the reading of Sherlock Holmes at their facilities. Steve will be soliciting donations of suitable display items. Details will appear on the Website.

Fortescue Continuing Education Program – Steve Mason who administers the Fortescue Scholarship Program has added a Continuing Education Program to the Curriculum. For those who have completed the B.S.S. degree—Baccalaureatus Scientia in Sherlockiana, the A.M.S. degree—Artium Magister in Sherlockiana and the Doctorate in Sherlockiana—the Sh.D. degree, can now add to their Sherlockian scholarship by enrolling in Fortescue Continuing Education Program. Details can be found on the Website.

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am.

These minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by Denny Dobry, Head-Light.

Beacon Society Financial Report 2019

12-31-18	Starting Balance	\$33,128.13
<u>Income</u>	Donations J. Stauber Grant	8,505.57
	Donations J. Senter Prize	8,111.00
	Donations Susan Diamond	2,029.10
	Pin Sale	10.00
	Total Income	\$ 18,655.67
<u>Expense</u>	Jan Stauber Grants	1,201.88
	Beacon Award M.McClure	221.00
	BSJ Subscription M.McClure	41.95
	Serpentine Muse M.McClure	20.00
	Postage M.McClure Plaque	13.70
	Susan Z. Diamond Plaque	105.00
	Junior Sherlockian Society	514.91*
	Go Daddy - Internet	114.02
	New check order	18.95
	PayPal Fees	92.56
	Book labels	46.59
	Paver-SH Statue, IL	150.00
	Total Expense	<u>\$2,540.56</u>
12-31-19	Balance	\$49,243.24
	Outstanding Grants 2018 (5)	\$1,952.00
	Outstanding Grants 2019 (3)	<u>1,500.00</u>
		\$3,452.00

*Junior Sherlockian Society expenses includes Flywheel host service \$150, BSI Dinner packets with promotional items (nickels, bags, cards, etc.) \$364.91

R.Kitts, Bursar 1-18-20

The Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award 2019 Report

January 18th, 2020

New York City, New York

The Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Society Award Committee Members

Shannon Carlisle

Francine Kitts

Peggy Perdue

Debbie Clark

Art Renkwitz, Awards Chair

Report

1. The four nominees were given careful consideration by the Beacon Society Awards Committee. Each member read, evaluated, rated, and then ranked the order of their preference 1 – 4.
2. Persons who applied and were considered, but not selected for the Beacon Award were notified.
3. The winner of the 2019 Beacon Society Award is Derrick Belanger of Broomfield, CO. Derrick is a High School Special Education teacher at Horizon High School in Thornton, Colorado. He is also an author of Sherlock Holmes books for children/young adults (The MacDougall Twins with Sherlock Holmes series) and adults (*Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Peculiar Provenance*). He gives author talks at schools throughout the year, and has developed a Sherlock Holmes mystery unit where students, in a 5th Grade classroom, complete a mystery writing project.

Mr. Belanger has made it one of his missions in life to introduce young people to Sherlock Holmes. He specifically created the MacDougall Twins series to introduce young readers to Sherlock Holmes through the eyes of the ten-year-old twin detectives who are the series' main characters. He also created the short story anthology The Irregular Adventures of Sherlock Holmes to introduce students to Sherlock Holmes and give them a chance to write their own pastiches with the character. He lectures to students about the importance of thinking like Sherlock Holmes in analyzing assignments and how that can help them be more successful in school.

Derrick is an outstanding proponent of all things Sherlockian and is universally respected and loved by hundreds of students and their parents.

4. My sincere thanks are expressed to the committee members. Each of who have served with distinction. Their thoughtful reviews, evaluations, and counsel have enabled our charge to be achieved.

2020 Report of the Communications Committee and *BeaconSociety.com*

As always, the committee focused on two main objectives during 2019: getting the word out about the Jan Stauber Grant and the Beacon Award, and the website, www.beaconsociety.com.

For the first objective, 3 separate mailings concerning the Society were distributed. In the third week of January 2019, a mailing was sent out to announce the availability of the Jan Stauber Grants for the calendar year 2019. In the last week of June 2019, a mailing was sent out to announce the 2019 winners of the Jan Stauber grants for the calendar year 2019.

In August 2019, a mailing was distributed asking for nominations for the annual Beacon Award. The mailings were sent to:

- National and all state/province Library Associations in U.S. and Canada
- National and all state/province Education Associations in U.S. and Canada
- All active scion societies in U.S. and Canada
- Children museum and theaters throughout the U.S.
- Members of the Beacon Society

Mailings were done electronically where email addresses were available.

In addition, the three announcements were posted on our Facebook site, as well as our beaconsociety.com website.

The website continues to be explored and used by hundreds of Sherlockians each week. Rusty and I continue to maintain the site, adding information on the Senter essay contest, making it easier to find the Junior Sherlockian site from our main page, and maintaining the list of those who provided support to the Society.

97 Sherlockians have now completed the entire Fortescue Scholarship Examination, which we continue to maintain on the website.

We continue to use the website as our primary source of information, backed up by our Facebook page.



Stephen Mason, ASH

Chair, Beacon Communications Committee – The Beacon Webmaster

January 18, 2020

2020 Beacon Society Fundraising Committee Report

The Beacon Society had a very successful year in 2019, raising \$18,645.67. A special thank you goes out to my committee, Carla Coupe, David McAllister, Ashley Polasek, and Liza Potts. Also, thank you so much to everyone who donated or even just passed information along about the Beacons.

A large portion of this year's funds came from Carolyn Senter (and her friends and family) in honor of her late husband Joel Senter. These were used to establish the new essay contest.

Letters have been deployed once again in the BSI Weekend Swag bags for The Woman, the dinner, and the Gaslight Gala. Printing, envelopes, and labels this year were donated by myself.

221B Con has once again selected the Beacon Society as their charity this year. There will be a specially ticketed event at the con, as well as another silent auction. Once again we will be looking for any Sherlockian treasures anyone would like to donate for the auction, please see Heather or myself for more information.

It should be noted that while we blew our goal of \$14,000 out of the water, some of those donations are not things we can count on in the future.

The Fundraising Committee is setting a goal of \$9,000 for 2020.

Respectively submitted,

Crystal L. Noll

Crystal L. Noll
Fundraising Committee Chair

2019 Annual Report of the Grants Committee

The Grants Committee is responsible for managing and awarding Jan Stauber Grants. In 2019, the Grants Committee members were: Heather Holloway, Chrys Kegley, Richard Kitts, Dee Dee Headings, Steve Mason, and myself.

In 2019, we received 5 grant applications, all of which were approved. We awarded a total of \$2,201.88. Unfortunately, this was well under the funds that we had available. Special thanks go to Steve Mason for the promotion of the Grants Program. And a special thanks to Scott Monty and Burt Wolder who recently aired an episode of I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere which discussed and promoted the Jan Stauber Grant Program and the work of the Beacon Society.

The 2019 review process was thorough and expeditious. The committee did an outstanding job, and I'm grateful for all their efforts.

Since most of the grants were for programs to be completed in the first part of this year, we have yet to receive any of the final reports for the 2019 grant year. These reports will be posted on our website once they are submitted in final form.

Reports were received for all but 4 of the 2018 grants that were given out. Some recipients were not able to complete their projects in the projected time frame. We have reached out to these grantees and are waiting for their final grant reports.

The application period will open by the end of January for the 2020 Stauber Grants. Applications must be received by May 1 but may be submitted at any time. The forms and all pertinent information are on our website BeaconSociety.com. This year the maximum grant amount is again \$600. Please contact schools, libraries, and other appropriate organizations in your communities and encourage them to apply. All questions about grants and the actual applications should be sent to the Grants Committee Chair, Cindy Brown; her contact information is on the form on our website.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Brown, Crew of the Barque Lone Star
Grants Committee Chair

**Junior Sherlockian Society's Annual Report
for the Beacon Society**

*submitted by Shannon Carlisle, Committee Chair
January 2020*

Committee Members- Alex Katz, Jen Kneeland, and Greg Ruby

Celebrating Our 2nd Birthday and New Tasks

On August 9th, 2019, the 221st day of the year, the Junior Sherlockian Society celebrated its second birthday. The program continues to invite children and youth to complete Junior Sherlockian Training- an in-depth study of Sherlock Holmes's character traits, observational skills, capacity for critical thought, and inductive and deductive reasoning. During the online training, Junior Sherlockians-in-Training complete the 2-2-1-b tasks to *explore, experience, and extend* their understanding and appreciation of the great detective. Upon completion of the tasks and submission of "training evidence," a certificate of completion is granted.

To support Junior Sherlockians-in-Training, new tasks were added.

- In "The Final Problem," Professor James Moriarty, the Napoleon of crime, and Sherlock Holmes finally meet. Gather a group of friends and/or family members and perform Donald Novorsky's adaptation of the short story.
- Read the newest *Baker Street Elementary* comics by Joe Fay, Steve Mason, and Rusty Mason. The comic strip chronicles Sherlock Holmes and John Watson's Victorian adventures if they had attended the same grade school.

Promoting the Junior Sherlockian Society (JSS)

January 2019

New York City, NY

516 JSS wooden nickels were distributed through the BSI, The Woman, and the Gaslight Gala dinner packets. Recipients were encouraged to share the nickels with children and youth and encourage them to participate in Junior Sherlockian training. (Throughout the year, coins were also distributed to Derrick Belanger (40), Rob Nunn (30), and Denny Dobry (30) for them to share with children and youth.)

March 2019

Dayton, OH

2020 Report of the Program Committee

Rob Nunn, Chair
Derrick Belanger
Elaine Coppola
Beth Gallego
Francine Kitts

This year has been a relatively quiet one for the Program Committee.

We consulted with the R. Joel Senter Essay Contest Committee on the 4th through 6th grade students' application packages.

We continue to work on a comprehensive listing and biographies of all previous Beacon Award recipients, the final product to be included in Ross Davies' 2020 Baker Street Almanac.

In the coming year, we plan to update the Beacon Booklist on the website and have offered to assist Steve Mason with assembly and distribution of the library display kits.

Rob Nunn
Chair, Beacon Program Committee
January 18, 2020
