



# Ineffable Twaddle

*"It is my business to know what other people don't know."*

The monthly publication of  
The Sound of the Baskervilles  
A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars since March 31, 1980  
Serving the Greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington, USA



## More Incentive to Attend Minneapolis Conference in June!

Do you *really* need more incentive to attend the Sherlockian Conference on the campus of the U of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Friday to Sunday, June 17 to June 19, 2016?? If so, consider this:

Answer the following 20 Canonical questions correctly and mail your answers to Editor Terri Haugen no later than March 15 and you could win:

- *free registration for one (1) to all conference events (a \$215 value), and*
- *\$100 per night toward your hotel stay (3 night limit).*

This contest is open to *ALL* SOB Members *nationwide*!! Questions can all be answered by researching the original stories in the Canon; extra credit will be given when the answer cites the original story.

Any tie will be broken based upon the earliest date postmarked. Entries will not be accepted by e-mail.

The sole winner will be announced at the March 20 Regular Monthly Meeting and published in the April issue of *Ineffable Twaddle*.

1. In what tale does Sherlock Holmes sport a goatee?
2. What did Dr. Barnicot, Morse Hudson, Horace Harker, Josiah Brown and Mr. Sandeford have in common?
3. In what story do we find Inspector Lanner?
4. Who cut her own hair?
5. What juvenile practice would Victor Hatherly have to give up?
6. How is James Phillimore like Archie Stamford?
7. Who was from Lebanon, Pennsylvania?
8. Where did Lomax work?
9. Where in England was "cooee" heard?
10. Who visited Skibbareen?
11. What did Verner do?
12. What is the apparent misidentification in TWIS?
13. What is the name of John Watson's dresser?
14. In what story does Watson call Holmes "Sherlock"?

Questions are continued on Page 4

*Thanks to SOB  
Geoff Jeffery for  
assistance in  
drafting these  
questions!!*

**Volume 35 Issue 2  
February, 2016**

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## Deadline Has Passed for Lauran's Contest!!

Time has run out for SOB Lauran Stevens' 2016 Contest!! Your entry for *"The Best Cast for the Ultimate Sherlock Holmes"* film should have been mailed by January 31!!!

The winner will be announced at the February 21 Regular Monthly Meeting and announced in the March issue of *Ineffable Twaddle*. And, the winning entry will appear in the SOB's 2017 *Beaten's Christmas Annual!*

Lauran's 12-item bumper prize has tons of stuff for your Sherlockian eating, reading and viewing pleasure!!!

**March 31  
is Deadline  
for Your  
Renewal  
Dues**



The Seattle Public Library on Queen Anne Hill is at 400 West Garfield



Library opens at 1:00, closes at 5:00. Come early, and catch up with your fellow SOB's!

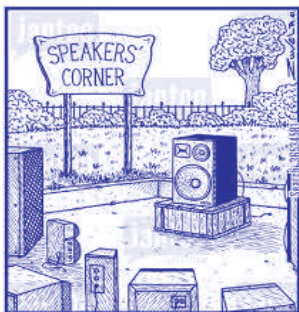
#### Getting there:

From north- or southbound I-5, exit at Mercer Street and head west. Turn right on Queen Anne Avenue and head up the hill. At the 3-way stop sign at the top, turn left onto West Galer Street. At 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, turn right. The library is one (1) block north on the northwest corner, at the cross with Garfield Street.

### No Debate! Speaker Needed!

As previously reported, we *had* two openings this year for SOB Members to conduct a presentation of their own choosing at a Monthly Meeting.

**SOB Vivika Sundqvist** has agreed to give a presentation at our August 21, 2016 Meeting (*topic TBA*).



That leaves Sunday, June 19 still open!!

Please let PFL David know if you want to fill that spot!!

## Will Love-Smitten Violet Marry Dastardly Baron Gruner?

The **February 21, 2016** Regular Monthly Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at **1:30 p.m.** at The Seattle Public Library (Queen Anne Branch) at 400 West Garfield, Seattle (*driving directions at left*).

**Says PLF David:** It's 1902 and the Edwardian-era has begun. "The Adventure of the Illustrious Client" is a case from the latter part of Holmes' career.

Holmes' "client" is Sir James Damery, a big, masterful aristocrat, whose name was a household word in society; Damery is representing an unidentified friend of General de Merville who's concerned that the General's daughter will marry a scoundrel.

Ms. De Merville's love interest is Baron Adelbert Gruner, a man of fine breeding. So what's the problem? He has a history of using women for his own purposes, murdering or destroying them.... "A purring cat who thinks he sees prospective mice." Enter Kitty Winter, Gruner's last mistress, who is bent on revenge and will do anything to help Holmes.

At the end, Holmes and Watson learn the identity of *the real*—the "Illustrious Client", General de Merville's unidentified friend—but Watson leaves it out of the story.

This is a good one! Better study up!!

## The Railroads in Sherlock's World: A Brief Outline

By: SOB Allen Nelson

No one can read the novels and short stories of the Canon without being conscious of the railroads of England. They may be second only to the City of London as a recurring background and setting for travel, conversational elements, and to some extent key factors in the mystery or situation at hand. By the time Doyle was writing the stories, we know so well that surface rail covered much of Britain as well as interlacing like a spider web the region around London. Even the underground rail system we call the Tube was fast developing in the last few decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and rapidly extending its development in the first few decades of the 20<sup>th</sup>.

As a beginning, below is a list of the 13 currently active rail stations in London, their dates of completion, and a notation from Jack Tracy's *Encyclopedia Sherlockiana* in which stories each station receives mention:

- Paddington, January 1854 (BOSC, ENGR, HOUN, SILV)
- Marylebone, March 1899 (no mention)
- Euston, July 1837 (BLAN, PRIO, STUD)
- St. Pancras, October 1868 (no mention)
- Kings Cross, October 1852 (MISS)
- Liverpool Street, February 1874 (DANC, RETI)
- Fenchurch St., August 1841 (no mention)
- London Bridge, December 1836 (BRUC, NORW, RETI)
- Cannon St., September 1866 (TWIS)
- Blackfriars, May 1866 (no mention)

- Charing Cross, January 1864 (ABBE, EMPT, GOLD, ILLU, SCAN, SPEC)
- Waterloo, July 1848 (CROO, FIVE, HOUN, NAVA, SPEC)
- Victoria, October 1860 (FINA, GREE, SILV, SUSS, VALL)

It would be possible for someone (perhaps already done) to write a scholarly analysis of how these stations were used and what their context was in each story. For this short note I only want to make the observation that so many of these stations are present in so many of the stories. This speaks to the importance of the widespread network around Britain that they encompass, as well as the importance of travel around the country that was emphasized by Doyle. Holmes and Watson may have spent much of their working lives in London itself but it is obvious even to the casual reader, and this list, that they certainly got around!

It is also interesting to note that while the stories were written from the late 1880's through the 1920's, the rail infrastructure was well-established at their inception and that it was greatly expanded during the writing of the Canon by Doyle. Many stations were built in earlier times and contemporaneously to this list starting with Nine Elms and Paddington's precursor in 1838. At least 10 stations have been abandoned in London, as well as numerous others in the region of the City. **Continued on Page 4**

## Things to See, Buy, Do and Know

• My dad and I enjoy the series of silent movies at our local **Mt. Baker Theatre (Bellingham)**. The next one is the **1916 William Gillette version of “Sherlock Holmes”**, which was lost for many years, and just discovered 2 years ago, in perfect condition. A fabulous organist flies in to perform on the live Wurlitzer organ to accompany the movie. Some folks come dressed in era-appropriate attire. It’s all quite fun. Details: The Long-Lost Sherlock, **Sunday, February 21, 3:00 p.m.** Tickets (\$10 to \$22.<sup>50</sup>) are available for purchase at [mountbakertheatre.com](http://mountbakertheatre.com) or through the MBT Ticket Office (360) 734-6080. **THANKS TO SOB CARA CROSS’ COUSIN LIZZIE!**

⇒ Reader Charles Miller has stumbled upon this **Old Time Radio Archive website** which features many episodes of *The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* starring Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce: <https://archive.org/details/oldtimeraudio?and%5b%5d=subject:%22Sherlock%20Holmes%22>.

⇒ **The New York Times on Sherlock Holmes:** When the book “The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes” was published, The Times wielded a dagger of its own, complaining on Oct. 16, 1892, that the stories were derivative—that their author, Arthur Conan Doyle, failed to acknowledge a debt to Edgar Allan Poe. The reviewer also confessed that he found Mr. Holmes just a little *too* perceptive: “You get a little weary of his perspicacity.” Two years later, when The Times reviewed “The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes,” its opinion had not changed much: “The reader leaves Mr. Sherlock Holmes at the bottom of a Swiss precipice, smashed into smithereens, and with the sincere hope that Mr. Doyle will never resuscitate him.” (By Mark Bulik at the NYT) **THANKS TO CARRIE PARRIS, EDITOR, THE LONDON SOCIETY’S DISTRICT MESSENGER FOR THE 2 ABOVE BULLETED (⇒) ITEMS.**

⇒ If you want to know **why Series 4 of Sherlock** is delayed, this is one reason: Benedict Cumberbatch has been working on and stars in the film **“Dr. Strange”**, as the proverbial doctor of the title—due out in late 2016. The plot: After Stephen Strange, the world’s top neurosurgeon, is injured in a car accident that ruins his career, he sets out on a journey of healing, where he encounters the Ancient One. (I predict that if this movie is a success, a franchise will develop in which he will in the next movie meet the Ancient Two and his twin. The three Ancients—Two Two One—will then help him fight the beta versions

of themselves at 221B.)

⇒ Seattle Rep Theatre will feature **“Sherlock Holmes and the American Problem”** by R. Hamilton Wright **April 22 through May 22, 2016**. Wright co-wrote the new adaptation of “The Hound of the Baskervilles” that we saw at the Rep in 2013 and features the same actors in the roles of Holmes & Watson. For tickets, call (206) 443-2222 or click on [seattlerep.org](http://seattlerep.org). **We’ve been offered a “group rate” on tickets if we can get ten (10) to attend!**

**THANKS TO PFL DAVID FOR THE 2 ABOVE BULLETED (⇒) ITEMS.**

• I recently read a library book which I think all of you might enjoy. It is **“A Fine Romance: Falling in Love with the English Countryside”**, by Susan Branch. The book is a journal of a trip she and her spouse took to England in 2012. They visited places Al and I have gone to, traveling by the Queen Mary, including 12 pieces of luggage (*I wasn’t sure I would like the book when I read that!*), and then driving about. They are in their 60s but very active and enjoyed what they saw. Susan is an illustrator and I enjoy her style. All in all it was a very pleasant book, and I bet each of you would find something in it to like, especially when you can check it out at the public library! **THANKS TO SOB MARGARET NELSON**

• **“Holmes Makers”** is the title of a recent **article in the Shop BBC (shop.bbc.com) paper catalogue**. It’s subtitled, “Steven Moffat says Arthur Conan Doyle’s great murders and ‘proper thrill’ inspired him and Mark Gatiss.” **THANKS TO SOB LAURAN STEVENS**

• **Port Townsend’s Victorian Festival 2016 is March 18 to 20**, with the theme “Heart and Home”. Tickets are \$15; for further, go to: <http://www.vicfest.org/tix.php>. The “Countess” of “Somewhere in Time Unlimited—Seattle” ([countess@situseattle.com](mailto:countess@situseattle.com)) tells us their **16th annual fashion show** will be late afternoon on **March 19**. All costumers are welcome—both men and women—covering the 1850s to 1910. To participate in the fashion show, contact Jo-Ann Bussa at (360) 301-3628. **FROM EDITOR TERRI**

• **SOBs Margie Deck and Margaret Nelson** stopped at **“The Olive Branch Café & Tea Room”** on December 20 and thoroughly enjoyed it. And, they do Tea Parties! They’re at the west end of Freighthouse Square in Tacoma (2501 East D St.); (253) 330-6511. **THANKS, LADIES!**



## From SOB DC Smith

I reviewed **Big Finish’s “Sherlock Holmes” audio drama series in my last column** (see *Ineffable Twaddle* for December 2015, Vol 34, Page 4), but I see **there is an addition to the new “Doctor Who” novel adaptation series** that might well pique the interest of my fellow SOBs! It is titled, **“All-Consuming Fire”**.

Here’s the promo from Big Finish’s webpage, *“The Library of St. John the Beheaded contains the most dangerous books in all creation so when some of them are stolen who else should the Vatican call but Sherlock Holmes? Immediately, one of the possible suspects seems more suspicious than others.*

*He has no traceable background, refuses to give straight answers and hides behind a pseudonym. However, Holmes and his loyal friend Watson soon realise this suspect is also their greatest hope: War is brewing and an Old God is rising; to save humanity, they need The Doctor as much as he needs them.”* Here’s the link:

<http://www.bigfinish.com/releases/v/all-consuming-fire-1229>



**Don’t miss these upcoming weekend events:**

**Masters’ Dinner, Saturday, March 5, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.** at Angelo’s Restaurant, Burien.

**Annual Wreath Throw, Saturday, May 7, 11:30 a.m. meetup** in the park below Falls Terrace Restaurant, Tumwater; **lunch follows at 1:00 p.m.**

**Annual Watson Picnic, Saturday, July 16, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at Seahurst Park, Burien.

*All are welcome!!*



### From SOB Charlie Cook

As per your request that I bring Sherlock Holmes and math into a paper, I doubt if I'm that clever. But a well-known mathematician (*in my world of mathematical studies*) named Henry W. Gould once wrote a couple of papers for *The Fibonacci Quarterly* involving **The Napoleon of Crime:**

"The Case of the Strange Binomial Identities of Professor Moriarty" 10.4(1972)381; Errata 10.6 (1972) 656; and "The Design of the Four Binomial Identities: Moriarty Intervenes" 12.3 (1974) 300.

Not surprising, as we all know that The Professor once wrote a treatise on the binomial theorem!

To read the above two articles, go to: <http://www.mathstat.dal.ca/fibonacci/>; click on "The Fibonacci Quarterly", then on the "List of Issues", and scroll down to the appropriate year of publication—1972 or 1974. (*Site info prior to the current 5 years is available to non-members.*)



### From SOB Jean Macdonald

**Daedalus Books**  
[(800) 395-2665]  
is offering:

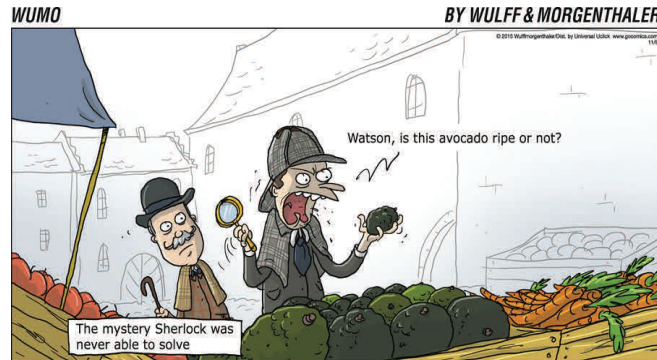
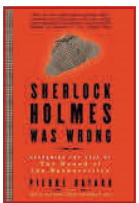
★ Pierre Bayard's  
"Sherlock Holmes

was Wrong—Reopening the Case of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*" for just \$3.98.

★ Otto Penzler's "*The Big Book of Sherlock Holmes Stories*" (Vintage)—their editor's choice for December—is available for \$16.95.

The Seattle Times' review of "The Big Book" is at:

<http://www.seattletimes.com/entertainment/books/heads-up-sherlock-holmes-fans-the-big-book-is-here/>



## ...Incentive to Attend the Minneapolis Conference in June!

Questions are continued from Page 1

15. What official name does Holmes give his operation?
16. How often did Holmes ask Watson to leave the room?
17. What was Watson's reaction to meeting Moriarty?
18. Who can "go everywhere, see everything and hear everything"?
19. Who was the coachman who drove Watson to Victoria Station in FINA?
20. What "causes an unhealthy excitement in the criminal classes"?

Notes:

- Editor Terri's snail-mail address is on Page 6 of this newsletter, in the upper left-hand corner at "*Direct Correspondence to:*".
- Entries will not be accepted by e-mail.
- Your entry to this contest must be postmarked no later than March 15.
- This contest is open to ALL SOB Members nationwide!!
- Prize for this contest is valued at over \$500!!!!

## The Railroads in Sherlock's World...

Continued from Page 2

The time span of some 90 years of major rail development may be compared with the modern development of air travel in our age, which also developed over a similar time frame.

There is a marked absence of Holmes' and Watson's use of the Underground rail system. Only the present Underground stations at Barbican (called Aldersgate prior to 1968), mentioned in REDH and BRUC, and Baker St. station mentioned in BERY correlate to the present Tube. It was not uncommon for surface rail facilities to interconnect with what we now call the Tube, especially Baker St. in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The absence of mention of the Tube may be because in its earlier years, 1863 to 1904, Tube trains were powered by steam. One can only imagine the impact on passengers from the smoke and cinders constrained by inadequately ventilated tunnels. There are many contemporary accounts of what it was like to take these trains and many of them speak of comparisons to Hell and worse. In spite of the discomfort the underground soon was declared a success and the

system rapidly expanded to most of what we see today. The electrification of the Underground was not accomplished until 1905, by which time Holmes was in happy retirement in Sussex.

If you want to get a feeling of what rail travel was like in Holmes' time, I would eagerly recommend visits to Paddington, Kings Cross, Waterloo and Charing Cross Railway Stations. Even with modernization, it is possible to squint your eyes and replace current locomotives with smoke belching behemoths of yesteryear. The crowds are still rushing to get here and there, and the original architecture of the stations remains as a fabulous monument to the technology of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Several interesting books you may enjoy reading:

- [Discovering London Railway Stations](#), by Oliver Green, 2010 Shire Publication
- [The Subterranean Railway](#), by Christian Wolmar, 2004, Atlantic Books
- [Encyclopedia Sherlockiana](#), by Jack Tracy, 1987, Avenel Books

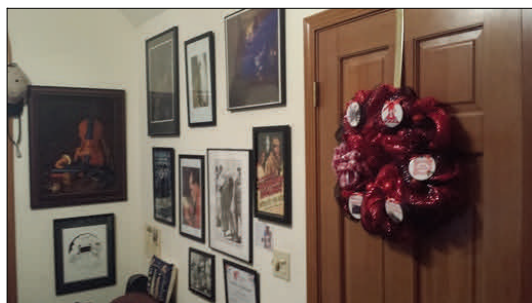
Submitted by SOB Bill Seil.  
Says Bill, "I only eat avocados at restaurants, so I have to trust them to judge ripeness."

Source: Seattle Times,  
November 18, 2015

## SOB Pictures: BSI Weekend and More!

At right, SOB's celebrate *Club Librarian Sheila's* January 1 birthday at our January 2 "Abominable Bride" revisit!  
*Photo by SOB Margie Deck*

From SOB Webmaster, **Stu Nelan**, on the BSI Weekend: "Daughter Kami came up from DC and we did some non-Sherlockian things together. Also bought lots of books and ate and drank way too much!" (No photo)



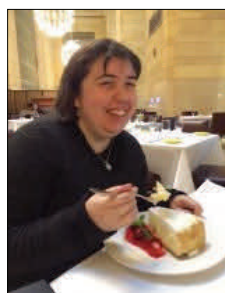
From SOB **Dwight Holmes**, at left: "Here—in my Sherlockian Room—is a shot of the wreath I 'won' at our Sherlockian International Summit in November!!"



From SOB **Sonia Fetherston, BSI**, at right: "Saw the original IBM 'Watson' from 2011 Jeopardy fame at the NY Historical Society today! So amazingly cool—I couldn't believe it!!"



From **Sonia**, above: "Here's Airy with me and novelist Gary Kriss. He's a former NY Times writer who is writing a series of thrillers featuring ACD as a character, with whom we had lunch!"



From **Sonia**, at left: "Here's SOB Airy Maher with dessert at a BSI Weekend function on January 13!"

## A Long Evening with Holmes

By Captain James Calhoun of the Pips aka (the late) **Bill Schweickert**

*Found by SOB Lauran Stevens in the Baker Street Journal's 1999 Christmas Annual*

When the world closes in with its worries and cares, and my problems and headaches are coming in pairs; I just climb in my mind up those seventeen stairs and spend a long evening with Holmes.

The good Doctor greets me and motions me in; Holmes grasps my hand and lays down his violin. Then we sit by the fire and sip a tall gin, when I spend a long evening with Holmes.

And while we're discussing his cases galore, if I'm lucky there comes a loud knock on the door. In stumbles a client, head spattered with gore, when I spend a long evening with Holmes.

Watson binds up the client's poor face, while Holmes soon extracts all the facts of the case. Then off in a hansom to Brixton we race, when I spend a long evening with Holmes.

The Adventure is solved, Holmes makes it all right, so back to the lodgings by dawn's early light. And a breakfast by Hudson to wind up the night, when I spend a long evening with Holmes.

So the modern rat race can't keep me in a cage; I have a passport to a far better age. As close as my bookcase, as near as a page, I can spend a long evening with Holmes.



## LIBRARIAN'S CORNER

*"It is a great thing to start life with a small number of really good books which are your very own."*  
**Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**

*"Everything You Want to Know about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: The Hero behind our Hero"*

Whether you believe that ACD was Watson's "literary agent" ("playing the Game") or the Sherlock Holmes author—no matter. **SOB Geoff Jeffrey** has given our library several exceptional books about Doyle:

- Biographies by John Dickson Carr (famous as the master of the locked room mystery genre)
- Daniel Stashower, who won the Edgar award for the best biographical work for this very book
- Russell Miller, whose biography comes from having full access to the great Holmesian scholar and collector Richard Lancelyn Green's papers
- Owen Dudley Edwards from the University of Edinburgh (who also has written a book about P.G. Wodehouse)
- Martin Booth, novelist and feature film writer
- Stephen Hines, writing about two of ACD's most famous, real-life cases—George Edalji and Oscar Slater
- and Janet Pascal, a life-long Sherlockian, writing about "ACD beyond Sherlock" for Oxford University Press' Oxford Portraits series.

Geoff also gifted our library with two large narrated picture books: **A Pictorial History of Sherlock Holmes**, with great reprints from early illustrators, stage and movie sets and actors, television shows, and parodies, satires and burlesques, along with a lively text, and **Sherlock Holmes in America**, covering American illustrators, Holmes in advertising, Sherlockian commentaries, and comic strips and cartoons.

*Thank you, Geoff!!*

I will bring these books to Club Meetings over the next two months. The updated Library Catalog also comes with the books, so you can look it over and request any books that are in another bin.

**SOB Librarian Sheila Holtgrieve**  
*sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com*





The Sound of the Baskervilles By appointment of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria

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The monthly publication of  
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A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars since March 31, 1980  
Serving the Greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington, USA

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*The Sound of the Baskervilles*  
... is a scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars, serving the greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington, U.S.A., and has met monthly since March 31, 1980.

\$20 per year brings Members the monthly newsletter "Ineffable Twaddle", a copy of Beaten's Christmas Annual, and the incalculable benefits of association with a group of certifiable Holmes aficionados.

Meetings are held the 3rd Sunday of each month. Location of the meetings may vary.

Regularly scheduled additional events throughout the year include: "The Masters' Dinner" celebrating the meeting of Holmes and Watson (March), "The Annual Wreath Throw" commemorating Holmes' loss at Reichenbach Falls (May), "The Dr. John H. Watson Picnic" (July), and "The Will Crakes Memorial Jollification" (December).

Other activities—book crawls, teas, plays and gaming events—are as announced.

To join or to renew your membership, send your check for dues—\$20 for individuals, \$30 for families (U.S. funds only)—to the address shown at left.



### Dates of Interest

#### • SUNDAY,

#### February 21

Regular Monthly Meeting, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., Queen Anne Library, 400 West Garfield, Seattle

#### • SATURDAY,

#### March 5

Our 33<sup>rd</sup> Masters' Dinner, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Angelo's Italian Restaurant, Burien. See insert.

#### • SUNDAY,

#### March 20

Regular Monthly Meeting, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., Queen Anne Library, 400 West Garfield, Seattle

## Member News, Notes, Updates

We held **three (3) SOB events** in January, 2016, presided over by **PFL David Haugen**.

☞ At our January 2 "Abominable Bride" revisit at Haugens' home were: **Melinda Michaelson**

**Margie Deck** **Genie Romnes** **Al Nelson**  
**Terri Haugen** **James Romnes** **Bryan Romnes**  
**Sheila Holtgrieve** **Margaret Nelson**, and  
*via Skype from Japan*, **Marcia Marcy**

☞ Attending the January 10 South Sound Meeting were: **Margaret Nelson** **Al Nelson**

**Carrol Clemens** **Maffie Rafferty**  
**Dawn Kravagna** **David Rafferty**  
**Cameron Brandon** **Terri Haugen**

• **Al** and **Cameron** tied for 1<sup>st</sup> place in our quiz on 3GAR, **Margaret** took 2<sup>nd</sup>, and **David R** and **Dawn** tied for 3<sup>rd</sup>. ☆ **Dawn** alerted us to a Tweet she'd posted on January 6 re: "Hamster Holmes"; check it out at: <http://jeanlittlelibrary.blogspot.com/2015/12/small-readers-hamster-holmes-mystery.html>

☞ Attending the January 17 Seattle Meeting were: **Sheila Holtgrieve** **Shannon Wallace**

**Vivika Sundqvist** **Terri Haugen**  
**John Longenbaugh** **Pat McIntosh**  
**Lauren Messenger** **Lauran Stevens**

• **Lauren M** took 1<sup>st</sup> place in our quiz on 3GAR; **John** and **Sheila** tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> ☆ **Vivika** has agreed to speak at our August 21 Meeting; we **still need a chair/speaker for our June 19**

### Meeting! How about YOU?

• **SOB Ginnie Romnes'** surgery is scheduled for early March. Luckily, she & James were able to "get away" to Las Vegas together for a weekend recently! She really needed that break from infusion therapy! Please drop her a card when you can to: **Genie Romnes**, 18226 SE 164th Street, Renton, WA 98058

• **Long-time (1998) SOB Cara Cross lost here Mom Ruth on January 12.** View a copy of her obit, see a number of pictures of Ruth, and send the family condolences at: <http://newtacoma.com/tribute/details/1552/Esther-Cross/obituary.html#tribute-start>. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Cara & Geoff!

• Our **Masters' Dinner** is Saturday, **March 5 at Angelo's Italian Restaurant in Burien, WA.** Please see the **enclosed insert**, and register to attend as soon as possible!!! *Note: Only Washington State residents are receiving this insert—though ALL SOB's nationwide, Friends of the SOB's, and their friends are welcome to attend!!)*

• **Club Picnic Chair SOB Paul Williams** reports that he has once again booked Seahurst Park in Burien, WA for our **Annual Dr. John H. Watson Picnic**. This is our 20<sup>th</sup> Watson Picnic and it's scheduled for Saturday, **July 16, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** It's a potluck, so please bring food and drink to share! BUT absolutely **no** alcohol, **no** smoking and **no** balloons are permitted! Haugens will host the coffee at 9:00!