In supporting the Sherlock Holmes Collections, many donors have made contributions either in honor or in memory of special persons.

In Honor Of
Marino Alvarez
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Denny Dobry
Timothy Johnson
Bud Livingston
Allison Lockwood
Bill Mason
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In Memory Of
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Fredda Caplan

By Marilynne McKay, ASH, BSI

“Your merits should be publicly recognized” (STUD)

In the spring of 2019 we lost Susan Z. Diamond, one of our best Sherlockian companions, and we mourn with her husband, Allan Devitt, ASH, BSI.

In Memoriam: Susan Z. Diamond

By Marilynne McKay, ASH, BSI

In Memoriam: Susan Z. Diamond

Our Friend Susan

50 Years Ago

From the President

Musings

An Update from the Collections

The Susan Z. Diamond Donation

Remembrances

Continued on page 6
Our Friend Susan
By Francine Kitts, ASH, BSI

What can I say about our friend Susan? A lot, actually. But I won’t bore you with all the things you know about her already—how she loved Allan and the furry members of their family, her community involvement, her business accomplishments, her dedication to the library she loved, her Sherlockian accomplishments, her tenaciousness, her grit. She was one feisty woman.

Instead I’ll tell you a few things about Susan that you may not know. If you ever played Words with Friends with Susan, you would know that her vocabulary was way above the norm. We played the game until the day before she left us. I told you she was tenacious! She loved to beat me. If we played 500 games over the years, I probably won 50 of them.

Susan loved to solve acrostics puzzles. Not the easy acrostics—oh no, not Susan. She loved the New York Times acrostic that comes out every other week. For many years I saved them for her and would then send off a bunch all at once, which Susan devoured with relish. She could solve one in a matter of what seemed to me to be an extraordinarily short amount of time. The first week that I didn’t have to save it was particularly painful, but now each time I see one, I think, well, she’s probably already solved it in another dimension, and I smile.

Susan cooked and baked from scratch. I cook from scratch but bake from box. I had a plate of my homemade brownies out when Susan & Allan came to stay with us. After complimenting my brownies, Susan asked for the recipe. When I told her Duncan Hines, she was unimpressed. My brownies were no longer the star. We had a good laugh.

Susan & Allan and Richard & I had to fly wherever we were going to see each other, since we live on the east coast. We spent many Sherlockian weekends together, both in the US and in London, and we wine-tasted on two separate occasions in California. Wherever we were, Susan was the navigator, and we happily let her enjoy her role. Once on one of the California trips we found ourselves tasting wine at 10 AM. And guess what? It was okay. We formed our own little Sherlockian scion society and called ourselves The Flying Decanters. The head of our Sherlockian world told us it always reminded him of The Flying Wallendas.

The first time I met Susan was in New York City at an ASH Wednesday dinner. She sat across the table from me, and when we were introduced, she said, “Hi. My cat’s name is Francine.” How could you ever forget that? I never have.

Susan’s death has left a void in all our lives. What we have to remember is that she lived life to the fullest, did it her way, and never faltered. What a woman! 😊

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An Update from the Collections…

Part of those discussions will take place on the departmental level as we contemplate our work in the context of the Big Ten Academic Alliance. It is exciting to think about the possibilities that might present themselves as there are now at least three Big Ten institutions—Michigan State, Indiana, and Minnesota—that are working with Sherlockian resources. Our colleagues in Michigan continue their great hosting and development of the Sherlockian.net website. The Lilly Library at Indiana just held a celebratory conference as they welcomed the Baker Street Irregulars archive into their devoted and expert stewardship. We look forward to what the future might hold as together we celebrate, share, and keep forever green the memory of the Master and the many groups and individuals who enjoy exploring this adventurous world.

Another part of our ongoing work continues to involve outreach, networking, and sharing Holmes and Watson with many friends and acquaintances across the country. In October it was my joy and pleasure to be a part of the inaugural Lel Coast Sherlockian Symposium in Portland, Oregon. I thoroughly enjoyed the many informative and entertaining presentations and was overwhelmed by the reception my contribution received during the weekend. Thank you for the opportunity to share some thoughts from my perspective as curator of this collection. My special thanks, again, to those who worked so hard to organize, promote, and run such a successful conference. It was a great pleasure to accept a beautiful piece of Jim Gola artwork from John and Christine Ellis, members of the Noble and Most Singular Order of the Blue Caruncle. I look forward to many more visits to the Pacific Northwest and a long run of the Symposium. At the same time, I’m gearing up for new trips to Atlanta, and wherever else it might be that folks come together to celebrate, study, learn, and build relationships.

It is a remarkable and broad community, or community of communities, that continue to gather around the Canonical tales and later manifestations. As I mentioned in Portland, we are a big tent. There is room for all. I’ll continue to do what I can to make this a welcoming and inclusive space. Now, in this season of Thanksgiving, I am, more than ever, extremely grateful for all the support you provide to the Collections and the work you do at the local level within your own groups and societies. We could not do, or be, what we are without your ongoing goodwill and enthusiasm. It is a rare and precious gift. As we make our way into the new year, navigating transitions and new opportunities, we are inspired by you and look forward to our continuing journey together. Thank you! 😊

Timothy J. Johnson
E.W. McDiarmid Curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections

The Diamond Meeting Room plaque at the Bensenville Public Library

Photo courtesy of Francine Kitts

2 Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections

- Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections -

An Update from the Collections…

Continued from Page 5

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2 Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections

- Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections -
In Memoriam: Susan Z. Diamond… Continued from Page 1

The Susan Z. Diamond Donation

In May of this year, my husband Mike and I paid a visit to Allan Devitt. Allan had contacted me about transporting the Sherlockian collection that his late wife, Susan Z. Diamond, wished to donate to the Sherlock Holmes Collections. Together with Allan, we boxed and bagged two large bookshelves which contained books, papers and ephemera. It represented years of her reading and activities as she worked with various scion societies. When we finished moving her collection out of the house, my SUV was full.

I’m sure that Allan won’t mind me relating that it was an emotional time, and we told a number of stories and shared memories of Susan. He was adamant that it was her wish that all of this become part of the Collections and if anything was a duplicate he knew she would like to see them sold to raise funds.

It was part of her generous nature.

The donation hasn’t been catalogued yet, and more information will be forthcoming when it is. It is a testament to her, as is the honor paid to her by the Beacon Society. It presents the Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award each January in recognition of exemplary educational experiences and other significant activities exposing young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories.

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

The December 1969 issue of the Baker Street Journal had several items by and about members of the Norwegian Explorers: A “Stand Upon the Terrace” noted the death of Dean Theodore C. Blegen, a founder of the scion; Letters to Baker Street had a long message from Ruth Berman, and a scholarly piece by Otis Hearn was included, which he titled “Some Further Speculations upon the Dancing Men.” Editor Julian Wolff, MD notes in Who’s Who in America, “OSTIS HEARN supplied the following information about himself: Occupation: Triller; Educator: At an establishment now firmly on the road to suicide. Euthanasia: BSI et omnia arcana.”

Otis Hearn would go on to write four articles that appeared in the Baker Street Journal from 1969-1978. His identity was slowly revealed. In 1970 he was a “busy lawyer and a Sherlockian enthusiast,” and in 1972 Otis Hearn was noted to be an alias for Walter Trenerry. The last Otis Hearn article in the BSI was in March 1978, and then-editor John Linsenmeyer wrote in the Whodunit, “OSTIS HEARN, also known as Walter N. Trenerry, is a semi-retired lawyer with a taste for the classics, who adds that he is of Cornish descent and is having an identity crisis over whether he is a Cornish hombre or a Chaldean Root. 300 71st Street, Miami Beach, FL 33141.”

Walter Northe Trenerry was born in Hibbing, MN on January 11, 1917 and died on January 26, 2012 in Mendota Heights, MN at the age of 95. His January 29, 2012 Minneapolis Star Tribune obituary notes a busy life, “Alderman and City Attorney of West St. Paul. Village Attorney of Village of Marine-On-Saint Croix. Past President of McKnight Foundation, Minnesota Historical Society, and Twin Cities Civil War Round Table. Vice President Bush Foundation, Chairman of the Minnesota Museum of Art, instructor in partnership. Real Property, and Constitutional Law, Saint Paul College of Law, Trustee of Saint John’s University, College of Saint Scholastica, and Breck School. Member of Planning Committee and Director of Guthrie Theater. Environmentalist. Bought private lands and gave them to Minnesota and Wisconsin as additions to state forests. Member of group buying land for Alien State Park.”

He was also an author of historical, legal, and Sherlock Holmes articles as well as several books. The April 8, 1982 Fort Myers, Florida News-Press featured him upon the occasion of being awarded the Fifth International Imagination Hemingway Competition, a contest sponsored by Harry’s Bar and American Grill in Los Angeles. He beat 1,300 other entries to win a trip to Florence in a contest judged by Hemingway’s brother Jack and Ray Bradbury. The article noted that after he retired, he “left the bone-chilling cold of Minnesota” and moved to North Fort Myers.

Donald De Waal’s description of the 1969 article reads “Abe Slaney and Elsey are unmasked as Chicago Anarchists (Nihilists) sending messages in symbols adapted from the Union Army’s Manual of Signals (1865) and using the Nihilist Transposition method of concealing one encrypted message insider another. Behind them lurks the real wire-puller, Moriarty, who has infiltrated the Anarchist organization to use it for his own ends.”

Otis Hearn’s scholarship has a lasting legacy in that his article is noted in Dancing to Death, the 2016 Baker Street Irregular Manuscript Series book.

Richard J. Sveum, MD, BSI

Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections

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From the President

W ith the 2019 Conference (‘Dark Places, Wicked Companions, and Strange Experiences’) and the accompanying Elmer L. Andersen Library exhibit behind us, it is time to look at the long-range plan for the Collections. In August 2017 the Friends leadership, including the Library staff, mapped out a future direction for the collections at a Board Retreat at the Elmer L. Andersen Library.

This retreat built on a 2006 Friends Strategic Planning Document and an April 2017 Library Special Collections & Rare Books Collection Development Policy for the Sherlock Holmes Collections. The later document included a list of Subject Areas Collected, General Collection Guidelines, and Priorities of the Collection & Areas for Growth.

During the retreat we also talked about our vision of collections in 2037, including digitization of the collection items. We also discussed a development policy and our cooperation with Big 10 libraries and other institutions with Doylean and Sherlockian collections.

New initiatives include acquiring funds for acquisitions, preservation and digitization of materials, and funding for exhibitions (including physical and virtual exhibits as well as travel costs). We are also interested in visiting scholars and having staff continue attending Sherlockian events.

Now that we have had some time pass since the retreat and have ruminated about the plan, it is time for implementation.

Gary Thaden

An Update from the Collections

A s I write, a winter storm is coming. Not a Holmesian east wind, but a storm all the same. Most everyone is getting ready for the storm in some way, making sure snow blowers and shovels are available and working, buying bags of melting salts at the hardware store, preparing for what is to come. It will be the first major storm of the season, a time of transition.

There are no storms of a different type on the horizon as far as the Libraries or Collections are concerned. But we are in a time of transition. The University of Minnesota has a new president, Joan Gabel, the first woman to hold that position. A couple weeks ago, Rachel Crosson was named as the University’s next executive vice president and provost. She will begin her work here in March. Our University Librarian, Wendy Lougee, will soon retire after a fruitful, energizing, and inspirational tenure. A national search brought a number of candidates to campus this fall for interviews. We expect that a new librarian will be named soon.

Closer to home, I am still here. I remain curator of the Collections. But retirement is on the horizon, probably five or so years away. So I’m beginning to think more about the future and what the Collections will look like and how we will function after I’ve left. When I was much younger and a member of a very active Boy Scout troop, one of the things that impressed itself upon me and became a part of my DNA was that as Scouts we always wanted to leave our campsites and lands we visited in better shape than we found them. This lesson wove itself into how I approach my work. I always want to leave something in a better condition than when I arrived.

Now, it is fair to say that I’ve not always been successful in this endeavor. But it remains my goal to improve our setting, faithfully steward collections in our care, and leave them in better shape for future generations to use, study and enjoy. There is always room for improvement. Thankfully, especially in this season of thanksgiving, we continue to make strides on a number of fronts due to work done by colleagues throughout the Libraries. I deeply appreciate their work. Collections are being cataloged, archival materials described, space managed to accommodate newly arrived items, and other activities that facilitate use, instruction, exhibition, and publication. In the weeks ahead, we plan on looking at additional ideas and pursuits that will strengthen the Collections, building on what we have accomplished so far.

Continued on page 7

Musings

A s Tim noted in his article, as this issue prepares to go to the printer, we’re awaiting the first winter storm of the season. We’re hoping we don’t experience the “bone-chilling cold of Minnesota,” a term noted in Dick Sveum’s 50 Years Ago column, with this storm.

I would like to extend a special thank you to both Marilynne McKay and Francine Kitis for writing about their friend Susan Z. Diamond. They were uniquely qualified to talk about her, and I’m sure there are any number of people who have stories they could tell. My own special memory is walking down a pier in Stockholm with Susan while on the Sherlock Holmes Society of London sponsored Cruise of the Baltic in 2001, listening to Allan Devitt sing “If I Knew You were Coming, I’d Have Baked a Cake.” All of these stories reflect a life well lived.

If Sherlock Holmes was comfortable using an alias such as Escott, Walter Treanor must have been comfortable as well when he wrote under the name Otis Hearn. Treanor was an accomplished man in a number of fields, and his essay regarding the Dancing Men Code and its potential origins is an interesting read.

Tim Johnson updates us about changes at the University and the Library as well as his ramblings in Portland. I was at the conference Left Coast Sherlockian Symposium, and – if anything – Tim is too modest about the reception he received for his talk. It was the only presentation that prompted a standing ovation. He also gives us an overview of what he views as exciting possibilities for the library.

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I hope you enjoy the rest of 2019 and any upcoming holidays. From “the bone-chilling cold of Minnesota,” we all wish you the best for the remainder of the year as well as hopes for a happy and healthy 2020.

Julie McKuras, ASH, BSI

Photo by Julie McKuras

Christine Ellis, Tim Johnson, and John Ellis

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At the 2017 retreat we talked about the strengths and weaknesses of the Friends organization and the challenges of collecting digital material. Library staff told us about changes to the Library’s physical structure, efforts to digitize the existing collection, and current acquisition policy and practices.

Included in the new August 2017 plan is an establishment of various committees to assist in operation of the Friends organization. Possible committees include an over-all advisory committee of Board members and non-Board members, a newsletter committee to assist the Editor, membership committee, and fund-raising committee. There was also a suggestion to have a liaison to scholars and students who might want to use the collections.

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Julie McKuraz, ASH, BSI
Susan grew up in Texas, but she spent most of her life in the Chicago area. She was a graduate of the University of Chicago, majoring in English Language and Literature; she later received an MBA from DePaul University. Susan published and lectured extensively on finance and business management and was the president of her own company, Diamond Associates, Ltd., for over 45 years.

Her professional honors included membership in Delta Mu Delta, the national honor society in business administration, the Institute of Management Accountants, and listings in Who's Who in America, Who's Who in Finance and Industry, and Who's Who in American Women.

Susan and Allan were Volunteers of the year for the greater Bensenville community, and Susan was the proud president of the local Public Library Board. The Bensenville Community Public Library auditorium was named the Susan Z. Diamond Room at her memorial celebration in August 2019.

Susan was a founder of the Beacon Society in 2003 and served as Secretary, President, and Chair of the Grants Committee. In 2019 the Society’s most prestigious award for outstanding efforts to introduce young people to Sherlock Holmes was named the Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award in her honor.

Susan was invested in the Adventur- esses of Sherlock Holmes in 1992 as The Lone Star. A few years later she began what was to become a twenty-year co-editorship of The Serpentine Muse, the Adventuresses’ quarterly literary journal. In 1994 she began organizing the yearly Watsonian Weekend, taking over the reins of the Chicago Silver Blaze from the late Bob Hahn, BSI, in 1994. Founded in 1960, the Chicago race remains the oldest still active, annually-running Silver Blaze in the world. She was invested in the Baker Street Irregulars as The Great Mogul in 1998.

Susan was a stalwart leader of Chicago’s Citerion Bar Association (past president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary; she received the Young Stamford Award in 1996), and was also a member of Terriss International. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, The Scotland Yarders, The Clients of Adrian Mulliner, and several others. She was a Life member of the Jane Austen Society of North America, and co-president of the Chicago chapter of The Wodehouse Society.

Susan will be remembered as a dedicated Sherlockian, a supportive friend, and a splendid hostess. She was a woman of integrity and an ardent feminist who campaigned with others for the admission of men to ASH; she was proud that her husband, Allan, was in the first group of men invested in the Adventuresses.

Susan maintained that the Sherlockian world “is supposed to be fun, after all,” it began as a take-off on literary criticism, not as literary criticism. “We will miss her kindness, quick wit, and willingness to work for goals she believed were important.”

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The article began

Walter Trenerre writes because he likes to write. And when he writes, he writes well. They give you an idea of his interests and because Trenerre writes well he won the award.

The News-Press wasn’t the only group to hold that opinion. The Minnesota Historical Society published Trenerre’s Murder in Minnesota: A Collection of True Cases, in 1962. The book is still in print after 57 years and notes that the author spent 15 years researching and writing about the colorful, if sometimes gruesome, deeds of Minnesota’s most notorious criminals. Trenerre was a 1941 graduate of Harvard Law School. An amateur historian, he was the co-author with Wallace Schulz on Abandoned by Lincoln; A Military Biography of General John Pope, published by University of Illinois Press 1990.

Ronald De Waal’s description of the 1969 article reads “Abe Slaney and Elsie are unmasked as Chicago Anarchists (Nihilists) sending messages in symbols adapted from the Union Army’s Manual of Signals (1865) and using the Nihilist Transposition method of concealing one encrypted message inside another. Behind them lurks the real wire-puller, Moriarty, who has infiltrated the Anarchist organization to use it for his own ends.”

Otis Hearn’s scholarship has a lasting legacy in that his article is noted in Dancing to Death, the 2016 Baker Street Irregular Manuscript Series book.

Richard J. Sveum, MD, BSI

Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections

The Susan Z. Diamond Donation

In May of this year, my husband Mike and I paid a visit to Allan Devitt. Allan had contacted me about transporting the Sherlockian collection that his late wife, Susan Z. Diamond, wished to donate to the Sherlock Holmes Collections. Together with Allan, we boxed and bagged two large bookshelves which contained books, papers and ephemera. It represented years of her reading and activities as she worked with various scion societies. When we finished moving her collection out of the house, my SUV was full.

I’m sure that Allan won’t mind me relating that it was an emotional time, and we told a number of stories and shared memories of Susan. He was adament that it was her wish that all of this become part of the Collections and if anything was a duplicate he knew she would like to see them sold to raise funds.

It was part of her generous nature.

The donation hasn’t been catalogued yet, and more information will be forthcoming when it is. It is a testament to her, as is the honor paid to her by the Beacon Society. It presents the Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award each January in recognition of exemplary educational experiences and other significant activities exposing young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories.

Julie McKean, ASH, BSI
Our Friend Susan
By Francine Kitts, ASH, BSI

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hat can I say about our friend Susan? A lot, actually. But I won’t bore you with all the things you know about her already – how she loved Allan and the furry members of their family, her community involvement, her business accomplishments, her dedication to the library she loved, her Sherlockian accomplishments, her tenaciousness, her grit. She was one feisty woman.

Instead I’ll tell you a few things about Susan that you may not know. If you ever played Words with Friends with Susan, you would know that her vocabulary was way above the norm. We played the game until the day before she left us. I told you she was tenacious! She loved to beat me. If we played 500 games over the years, I probably won 50 of them.

Susan loved to solve acrostics puzzles. Not the easy acrostics – oh no, not Susan. She loved the New York Times acrostic that comes out every other week. For many years I saved them for her and would then send off a bunch all at once, which she devoured with relish. She could solve one in a matter of what seemed to me to be an extraordinarily short amount of time. The first week that I didn’t have to save it was particularly painful, but now each time I see one, I think, well, she’s probably already solved it in another dimension, and I smile.

Susan cooked and baked from scratch. I cook from scratch but bake from box. I had a plate of my homemade brownies out when Susan & Allan came to stay with us. After complimenting my brownies, Susan asked for the recipe. When I told her Duncan Hines, she was unamused. My brownies were no longer the star. We had a good laugh.

Susan & Allan and Richard & I had to fly wherever we were going to see each other, since we live on the east coast. We spent many Sherlockian weekends together, both in the US and in London, and we wine tasted on two separate occasions in California. Wherever we were, Susan was the navigator, and we happily let her enjoy her role. Once on one of the California trips we found ourselves tasting wine at 10 AM. And guess what? It was okay. We formed our own little Sherlockian scion society and called ourselves The Flying Decanters. The head of our Sherlockian world told us it always reminded him of The Flying Wallendas.

The first time I met Susan was in New York City at an ASH Wednesday dinner. She sat across the table from me, and when we were introduced, she said, “Hi. My cat’s name is Francine.” How could you ever forget that? I never have.

Susan’s death has left a void in all our lives. What we have to remember is that she lived life to the fullest, did it her way, and never faltered. What a woman! ♥

An Update from the Collections…

Part of those discussions will take place on the departmental level as we contemplate our work in the context of the Big Ten Academic Alliance. It is exciting to think about the possibilities that might present themselves as there are now at least three Big Ten institutions—Michigan State, Indiana, and Minnesota—that are working with Sherlockian resources. Our colleagues in Michigan continue their great hosting and development of the Sherlockian net website. The Lilly Library at Indiana just held a celebratory conference as they welcomed the Baker Street Irregulars archive into their devoted and expert stewardhip. We look forward to what the future might hold as together we celebrate, share, and keep forever green the memory of the Master and the many groups and individuals who enjoy exploiting this adventurous world.

Another part of our ongoing work continues to involve outreach, networking, and sharing Holmes and Watson with many friends and acquaintances across the country. In October it was my joy and pleasure to be a part of the inaugural Left Coast Sherlockian Symposium in Portland, Oregon. I thoroughly enjoyed the many informative and entertaining presentations and was overwhelmed by the reception my contribution received during the weekend. Thank you for the opportunity to share some thoughts from my perspective as curator of this collection. My special thanks, again, to those who worked so hard to organize, promote, and run such a successful conference. It was a great pleasure to accept a beautiful piece of Jim Gola artwork from John and Christine Ellis, members of the Noble and Most Singular Order of the Blue Carbuncle. I look forward to many more visits to the Pacific Northwest and a long run of the Symposium. At the same time, I’m gearing up for new trips to Atlanta, and wherever else it might be that folks come together to celebrate, study, learn, and build relationships.

It is a remarkable and broad community, or community of communities, that continue to gather around the Canonical tales and later manifestations. As I mentioned in Portland, we are a big tent. There is room for all. I’ll continue to do what I can to make this a welcoming and inclusive space. Now, in this season of Thanksgiving, I am, more than ever, extremely grateful for all the support you provide to the Collections and the work you do at the local level within your own groups and societies. We could not do, or be, what we are without your ongoing goodwill and enthusiasm. It is a rare and precious gift. As we make our way into the new year, navigating transitions and new opportunities, we are inspired by you and look forward to our continuing journey together. Thank you! ♥

Timothy J. Johnson
E.W. McDiarmed Curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections
In supporting the Sherlock Holmes Collections, many donors have made contributions either in honor or in memory of special persons.

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In Memoriam: Susan Z. Diamond
By Marilyn McKay, ASH, BSI

In the spring of 2019 we lost Susan Z. Diamond, one of our best Sherlockian companions, and we mourn with her husband, Allan Devitt, ASH, BSI.