

Meeting Notes

June 22, 2018



Reported by Carla Coupe

“It was a dark and stormy night...”



Actually, it was only a bit stormy and not yet dark when forty-plus Red Circle stalwarts assembled at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda for an evening of jest and jollity. After a convivial hour of chat and libations, the company partook of a buffet dinner and then was riveted by Dan Andriacco’s fascinating presentation on “Rex Stout: Sherlockian Extraordinaire.” Dan has the happy facility to make even *the* most erudite topics interesting and amusing, and his talk was punctuated by murmurs of appreciation as well as quiet chortles. Even if you missed the fun, we’ve included a transcript of his talk here on the website, so you can enjoy Dan’s scholarship and humor. Just “open the index” in the “Writings” box on the front page and you’ll find the full text.

In addition to Dan and his delightful wife Ann, the Red Circle regulars were joined by Ira Matetsky, the Werowance (chief) of the Wolfe Pack—the official Nero Wolfe society—and several other Wolfe Pack members (also familiar Sherlockians), including Bob Katz, Frank Mentzel, Greg Ruby, John Baesch, and Ross Davies.

A highlight of the evening was when Peter raffled off two books: a signed copy of John AcAleer’s biography of Rex Stout, courtesy of Ann Marlowe, and Bonnie MacBird’s Sherlock Holmes pastiche *Art in the Blood*, courtesy of Kathy Harig of Mystery Loves Company. Bev Wolov, looking not unlike a mother robin feeding her hungry chicks, distributed the raffle tickets into outstretched hands without getting mauled. Your humble correspondent won the Rex Stout biography (honestly and completely above-board, cross my heart!), and Gary Buck won Bonnie’s book. Thank you, Kathy and Ann!

After Peter’s announcement of various upcoming Sherlockian activities (see the calendar on the front page for the particulars), we wrapped up the evening with reluctant good-byes, and are looking forward to the next meeting—lunch on Saturday, September 8 at our familiar digs at the Hyatt.

Hope to see you there!