

Meeting Notes

March 30, 2019



Reported by Carla Coupe

Bright sun and warm temperatures welcomed all to the spring Red Circle luncheon meeting on Saturday, March 30th. Our venue—the venerable Alfio’s La Trattoria in downtown Bethesda—was private and comfortable, and the room, decorated with heraldic shields and suits of armor, provided a wealth of atmosphere.

The meeting began on a somber note when Peter Blau asked attendees to stand upon the terrace for long-time Red Circle member Julie Snell, who died on March 22nd. All the Red Circle will miss her. Her daughter, Nancy Anselm, attended the meeting and kindly donated the meeting’s door prize—a poster of the entire *Hound of the Baskervilles* in a graphic image from her mother’s collection—which was won, to her immense surprise, by your humble correspondent. A lovely way to remember Julie.



Peter also welcomed MaryKate Brennan, who drove all the way from Hicksville, New York, to attend our meeting, and everyone applauded her devotion!

Peter’s customary review of upcoming Sherlockian events was chock full of interesting opportunities to indulge the passion. A look at the Sherlockian Calendar on the front page of the website would be a worthwhile endeavor.

Alan Rettig reported on the results of the recent survey regarding meeting times and locations. Friday evening and Saturday lunch were the preferred meeting times, and Maryland and DC the preferred locations. Future meetings will take these preferences into consideration.



Your humble correspondent gave the meeting’s presentation, “Published When the Times Were Ripe.” The talk centered around my conviction that shepherding a book through the publishing process (which is what I do at Wildside Press) isn’t too different from writing a Holmes pastiche. I started with Ronald A. Knox’s eleven criteria for creating a Holmes adventure and matched them to the steps we typically use to bring stories to the printed page. There are remarkable similarities. You can read the text of my talk on the website.

We look forward to the next Red Circle meeting on June 21, location to be announced.