

11 November 2023

My Dear Sherlockian:

On behalf of our “Seventeen Steps,” George Schwartz, it is my great pleasure to invite you to the Forty-fifth Annual “Friends of Irene Adler” Christmas Dinner. As is our custom, this festive occasion will take place on the third Friday of December, the 15th, beginning **at 6 o’clock in the evening**, at the **Harvard Faculty Club, 20 Quincy Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts**. We will be celebrating the 170th birthday of Mr. Sherlock Holmes of 221 B Baker Street as well as the 164th anniversary of the birth of his literary agent, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

This year will be a special treat. After four difficult years marked by a calamitous pandemic, we are happy to resume our annual Christmas dinner. There will be a challenging quiz to motivate members and guests. We do hope everyone will take part, particularly this year. There perhaps will be a scholarly paper and a few surprises as well.

Preceding Queen Victoria’s own Roast Goose with Chestnut Stuffing, the elegant Potage Sainte Monique will be served. Following it will be the wondrous Trifle Adler. The fare for the evening’s delight is \$152. We will utilize the Club’s excellent variety of wines and other libations with a cash bar but we will serve free wine at the table as well as offer free soft drinks. Seating for this gala is limited, and in the past, not all could be accommodated. We have arranged with Mrs. Hudson to prepare vegetarian meals. However, she needs ample time. If you wish a vegetarian meal or have other dietary restrictions, and further, if you would like to bring friends, please inform me of your intentions and needs by Friday, December 8th, 2023. Of course, black tie and evening dress are encouraged for those who prefer it.

With many Sherlockian regards, I am,

Joel Schwartz, “The Dark Silhouette Against the Blind”

I, _____ will be able to attend and will bring _____ guests. The guest(s) name(s) are _____ . Please enclose a cheque for \$152 per individual (made out to The Friends of Irene Adler), and return it to me no later than December 8, 2023, Joel Schwartz, **2 One Salem Street, Swampscott, Massachusetts 01907. (Please note my new address)**

I, _____ will not be able to attend and send my regrets.

(In any event, please give me your current e-mail address if you have not already done so, or if there are changes since 2019 so I will be able to send you a copy of the minutes.)