



Wise Fox

A Monthly Publication of the Foxboro Jaycees – January 2022

Happy New Year, Foxboro Jaycees!

Was it really just a year ago that we welcomed 2021 with open arms, filled with hope and optimism for a brighter year? Well, 2021 did indeed answer some of our prayers and perhaps some of the wishes inspired by Parker Devine's wishing tree set on the Common a year ago. Despite vacillating COVID mandates and information, volunteers navigated obstacles with creativity and perseverance to preserve treasured projects and activities: local kids celebrated New Year's Eve; the Easter Bunny visited the Common; a graduating senior received a scholarship; summer concerts rocked the community each week; first responders were honored during Community Night Out; local businesses participated in the fall Vendor Fair; local veterans received Thanksgiving meals; all winter holiday projects ran successfully, from Santa on the Common and Santa Video Messages, to Sand for Seniors, to Fruit Baskets, to setting up the Nativity, to supporting a local child and senior.

Beyond preserving our treasured traditions, Jaycees found new ways to touch those in need: the families tragically displaced due to the Central Street fire found solace from the Foxboro Community. Amy LaBrache and Lynda Walsh spearheaded the Jaycees effort to collect gift cards for the family, and the community wrapped their arms around the families: businesses collected gift card donations, the Senior Center offered a refuge, and local citizens simply could not do enough.

Even our individual development projects were anything but business as usual: Book Club met all year - virtually; Virtual Trivia kept us connected; Ways and Means had a successful virtual raffle; all Board Meetings and all General Meetings (except one) were virtual. And we certainly cannot overlook the creativity of the new projects that helped buoy our spirits: Straw Hat Contest, Yard Sale Fundraisers, lemonade stands, and so many other activities.

As we all prepare to take stock of our blessings as we step into the new year, I am once again grateful to reflect upon the health and safety of my loved ones and friends, including my Jaycees family, and once again, I cautiously look forward with hope and optimism that 2022 will allow the good work to continue.

To my Jaycee family, I wish you all good health and safe tidings. I also hope to see you in 2022 during which we can collaborate on our good work together!

Yours in Jaycee Spirit,

Deena Cummings



Secretary's Report

Pam Warren



Happy New Year!! May 2022 be filled with light, healing and all good things. We have some exciting projects planned for this year, including a brand-new Car Show and the return of the Spring Vendor Fair. We will need manpower for these big events so be sure to plan ahead... If you are unable to attend our meetings, but would like to know what happened, or what was discussed about a particular project, you can request a copy of the minutes. Send me an e-mail loccgazette@yahoo.com and I will pass them on. I hope to see you for our Zoom Meeting on January 12th.

Sunshine - Deepest Sympathies to Fred Badger, who lost his Brother recently. If anyone wants to send some Sunshine – let me know. It can be a Congratulations, get well, sympathy, thank you - Get me the details. **“Shared Joy is Multiplied; Shared Grief is Diminished”** Please Share!

Wise Fox - If you would like to have something posted in the Wise Fox, email me at wisefox@foxborojaycees.org and I will get it included – ANYONE can add to the Wise fox – not just the board. I highly encourage Project leaders to post about events and would love to give a “Shout Out” to members who have made a difference – in the chapter or on their own.

Our Award Winners from December 2021 GCMC

November 2021 Jaycee of the Month – Ken Wills: Kenny has worked tirelessly this year keeping our Inventory organized, preparing for each project and doing any needed repairs to the facility. He was instrumental in getting the lights and all the decorations ready for the common decorating and was there bright and early to meet the crew to deliver the Nativity set. He is always helping quietly, behind the scenes and is a true asset to the Group. Thanks Ken!

November 2021 Project of the Month – Alzheimer's Walk – Pam Warren: This project is very personal for Pam since she is currently the primary caretaker for her Mother who has Alzheimer's Disease. Thanks to donations by the chapter and her own fundraising, she was able to raise \$400 this year to support research to find the cure. She and her Mom attended the ceremony at Patriot Place and were able to cheer on the walkers as they set out.

Congratulations to our winners!!!!

Something worth Celebrating...

January Birthdays:

John Zarella
Kevin Mack
Kelly Reid
Deena Cummings
John Underwood
Amy LaBrache

January Anniversaries:

Deena Cummings	2004
Vanessa Shirley	2007
Michael Stewart	2015
Patty Reid	2015
DJ Jolicoeur	2017



Pam and her Mom, Joan, at the Alzheimer's Walk at Gillette Stadium during our "Project of the Month"



"Jaycee of the Month" Ken Wills decorating the bushes during the Common Holiday decorating.





Individual Development

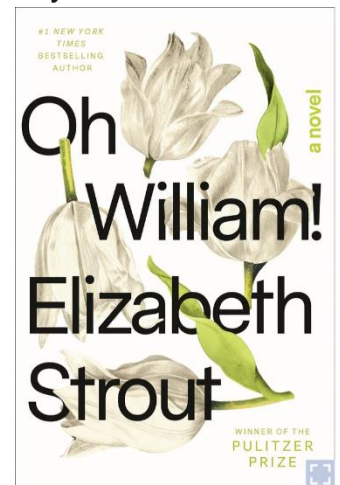
Vice President: Sophia Manos

Book Club – Lisa Jolicoeur – 1/6/22, 7pm (Zoom)

On Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021, Book Club members welcomed two new members and discussed Elizabeth Strout's "Oh, William!" via Zoom. Welcome to Lisa from Mansfield and Patricia all the way from Tennessee (MA native). :)

"Oh, William!" is told from the first-person perspective of Lucy Barton, a 60ish woman mourning the loss of her husband David but who is still very close to William, her first husband and father of her two girls. William's second wife has just left him, but Lucy's narration reveals her coping with her own loss; navigating the complicated friendship she has with William; reflecting on the challenges her daughters faced with their own lives including mental health; and navigating memories of her own upbringing in poverty with a fire who suffered from PTSD and a mother who seemed through Lucy's narration a bit detached.

While Book Club members noted no true action or excitement in the novel, we were eager to learn how the stories unfolded: William learns at this point in his life that his mother had given up a daughter before having him and fleeing a life of poverty in Maine; he and Lucy take a road trip to Maine to meet her. William's mother also generated some great conversation because of the way she treated Lucy, so we explored how we felt about her when we first met her in the novel (seemingly cold, possibly mean) versus how we felt about her after learning about her background.



Lucy's allusions to things that happened earlier in her life were not addressed fully in this book ("Oh, that was in another book...."), so some of us were inspired to read Strout's previous novel, "My Name is Lucy Barton," a book with the same style of narration and lack of action that we experienced in "Oh, William."

We discussed an array of topics that impacted the characters in some way: relationships with various people in our lives, mental health, poverty, divorce, ex-spouses.

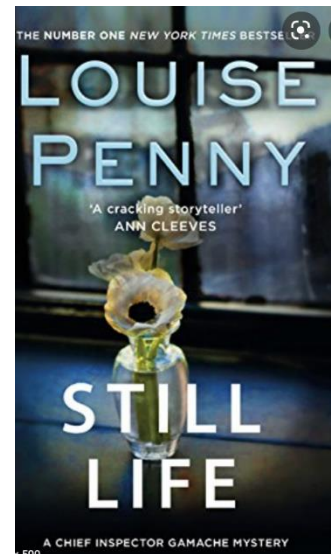
For many reasons, the book earned mostly 3's and 3.5's with one person giving a 1 on a scale as follows (which we discussed as well!): 1 being "drop everything, turn off the phone, and read; " 2 being "good but leave the phone on"; 3 being "glad I bought it and read it but...."; 4 being "wish I had not bought it and would not recommend it to others"; and 5 being "wish I had not read it - waste of hours of my life."

Keep in mind books on your "wish list" that you would like to add to our future reading list - our goal is to find books **none of us has read!!**

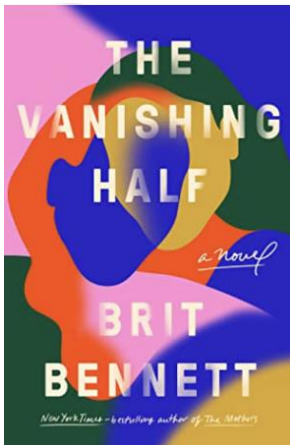
January Book Club Choice: "Still Life" by Louise Penny
Winner of the New Blood Dagger, Arthur Ellis, Barry, Anthony, and Dilys awards.

Chief Inspector Armand Gamache of the Surêté du Québec and his team of investigators are called in to the scene of a suspicious death in a rural village south of Montreal. Jane Neal, a local fixture in the tiny hamlet of Three Pines, just north of the U.S. border, has been found dead in the woods. The locals are certain it's a tragic hunting accident and nothing more, but Gamache smells something foul in these remote woods, and is soon certain that Jane Neal died at the hands of someone much more sinister than a careless bowhunter.

Still Life introduces not only an engaging series hero in Inspector Gamache, who commands his forces—and this series—with integrity and quiet courage, but also a winning and talented new writer of traditional mysteries in the person of Louise Penny.



February Book Club Choice: Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett



The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults, it's everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities. Many years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined. What will happen to the next generation, when their own daughters' storylines intersect?

Other books and authors we discussed include the following:

Jody Piccoult (new book) "Wish You Were Here"

Patti Callahan – "Once Upon a Wardrobe "

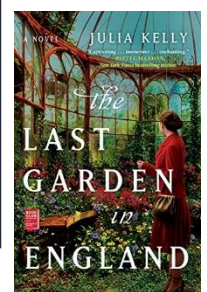
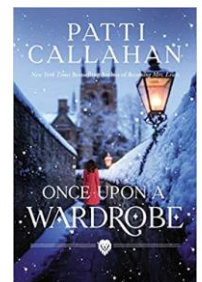
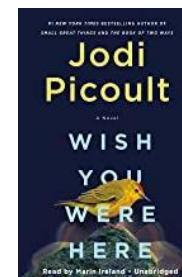
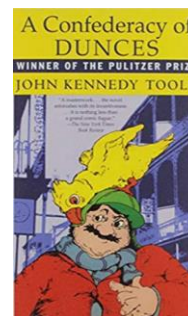
Matt Haig – "Midnight Library"

Cemetery of Lost Books (series)

Julia Kelly – "The Last Garden in England"

John Kennedy Toole – "A Confederacy of the Dunces"

We are looking to add some humor to our lists! :)



Upcoming Projects:

Scat Night – (Covid pending) Early 2022.

We like appetizers, we like talking, now throw in some cards and coins! We gather, we chat, we chow, we scat! Rules of Scat can be found here (<https://gamerules.com/rules/scat-card-game/>) Kris Long has agreed to host when the time comes, but please let me know if anyone else is interested. Times are still weird, we know, but if anyone is interested in hosting as back up, please let us know. The host runs the show in their own home. If you want masks on, okay, if you want everyone to wear chef hats, well that may work too.

Providence Bruins Outing – Pam Warren (potentially) Feb 20th at the Dunkin Center in Providence

This match-up on Sunday the 20th will pit the Providence Bruins against the Hershey Bears. It will be bears vs bears. A growling good time. This is a Sunday Matinee game and will be very Family-Friendly. We will adhere to all safety protocols and rules of the facility and state of RI. Contact Pam Warren if you are interested. She will be in contact with the Bruins about a group rate.



Completed Projects:

GM Yankee Swap – December 8th 7pm at South Foxboro Community Center

Our first IN-PERSON GM in about 20 months was a fun return of the Yankee Swap. Great dip from Kenny, great cookies from Pam, fun gifts, and a new member joined!

That is all for now. Stay safe and Happy New Year

We are open to suggestions for rejuvenating any former or starting a new ID project. Let me know!

Message from Marian McCabe: Greetings Everyone!

I hope you all had a great holiday season! I am looking to see if you all would like to do a monthly virtual game night again. We need to have at least 5 people every month to participate. If there is enough interest, we can do this on either Friday, Saturday or Sunday. Please contact me via email: marianmccabe6819@gmail.com to let me know either way. Thank you in advance.

Marian



Development

Vice President: Lynda Walsh



Happy New Year all my Jaycee Friends. Let's hope we can continue to make a difference in our community this year. I'd like for you to share your Jaycee story with as many friends as you can, offer to take them to one of our meetings, or projects.

Support for Fire Victims – Lynda Walsh/Amy LaBrache

As most of you know, there was a fire at an apartment building in town on December 15th. I heard it in the morning on my scanner, I was on my way to work and felt the need to go help support these folks who were awakened early in the morning to smoke. I swung by DD and got a box of joe and box of cocoa and went to the Senior Center where the victims had been given shelter to wait for Red Cross. I stayed with them for the day, Marc Rivard came up to offer rides, etc. I asked my church, St. Mark's to open the Trading Post, as some of these folks came out in their pajamas and slippers. They opened and folks were able to take whatever they could use. I kept in touch with the board as to what was happening. Amy reached out right away, and Jay Barrows offered to get them lunch, others brought gift cards for Jake and Joes so the families could have supper. The outpouring was automatic, as I knew it would be. Later that night, Amy, Kris, Marc and I sat down to put together a plan for donations, etc. We decided that immediate needs for shelter, and other items would be best supported by Gift Cards. Jay Barrows offered his Insurance Company as a place to drop off the donations. This exploded on Facebook, and we began receiving gift cards and other items right away.

This is what being a Jaycee means... to help make a difference in our community and those that live there. Three families found themselves with nothing, only the clothes on their backs. Many others have stepped up to help these folks, but my hope is that they remember the day that The Foxboro Jaycees helped them and that someday they will have an opportunity to pay it forward. I know that each of us hold a special ability to jump in and help where help is needed. We all come from different backgrounds, education levels, but what bonds us together is our giving hearts.

If you come across a situation where you feel the Jaycees need to get involved to help where we can, reach out to a board member and tell them about the situation and if you have any ideas to help. It's important for each of you to know that we are a well-recognized group in town and folks have become comfortable knowing we're here to jump in when asked or needed.

I just want to remind folks that if your plan includes reaching out in the Jaycee name, please be sure to include board members and if you're asked questions by press, that you include the Jaycee name.

Many times in life we just do, and don't want to be recognized as an individual, but the chapter could use the publicity for things like this. Our good name should be used when we can.

Nativity Scene Take Down – Carl Bertolino ~ January 8th

Carl and our friends from the Knights of Columbus will be moving our Nativity Set back to inventory for safe keeping for the year.

From Carl Bertolino: Greetings, Jaycees.

I in no way want to stop the Christmas Spirit. But we have to look forward and plan. I am asking for your help again getting the Nativity Set put away for another year. I have talked to Kenny Wills and he will be at the Common at 9:00 AM to start the breakdown. I need strong backs, Pickup Trucks, and a good spirit. We may be dealing with left over snow and ice from this Thursday's storm so please dress accordingly.

I hope everyone's holidays were good
Peace, Carl

Common Decorating Take Down – Ken Wills ~ January 8th

Kenny will be looking for help taking down the Christmas decorations on the common. If you have time Saturday morning please join him, the more help, the quicker it goes.

Sand for Seniors – Sophia Manos/Mike Mills

Although we've been very lucky early Winter, the ice and snow will be upon us soon. Sophia and Mike will make sure that our seniors keep their sidewalks and pathways safe by offering up buckets of salt/sand mixture. Thank you, Sophia and Mike.

Darkness to Light – Amy LaBrache TBD

Amy will be holding another Darkness to Light Training this month or next. It's important and a town encouragement for all dealing with children to take this training. We are lucky to have Amy, who has been trained to be a trainer in this. Please consider taking this training when a date is announced.

Completed Projects:

Caroling on the Common – Lynda Walsh

The FHS Holiday Band played while about 100 friends joined us on the common for Caroling. It was a cold night, and the wind began to pick up, but folks warmed up with

a hot cocoa supplied by our newest member Brandon Ryan and his company UMM. Thank you for the support, Brandon.



Fruit Baskets – Sophia Manos

Sophia and the crew from Partners Health Care along with several Jaycees were able to make up approximately 200 fruit baskets for the Discretionary Fund Christmas delivery this year. Special thanks to our friends at Partners Health Care for their help and financial support this year.



Holiday Light Contest – Pam Warren & Bob Gillis

Bob and Pam had quite a few families sign up for the contest this year and were gave out several theme related awards to the winners. This is our second year and I believe it's a great community project, hope it continues next year.

NY Eve Kids Party – Amy LaBrache & Lyndsey Hobart

Due to the fact that Patriots Place is having an event for Children on New Year's Eve, we've decided that our project wouldn't get much support. We'll see what we can do for the kids next year.

Support a Child/Senior for Holiday – Lisa Jolicoeur

Lisa was able to shop for a child in need as well as a senior who could use some cheer this holiday season. Thank you, Lisa, for taking care of this project. (Below summaries are from Lisa)

Support for a Local Senior

The Jaycees donated CVS gift cards to the Foxboro Senior Center to offer assistance for the holidays. This annual project provides an opportunity to connect with the amazing Senior Center to ensure our local seniors have what they need to stay healthy over the holidays.

Assist a Local Child

The Foxboro Discretionary Fund invites individuals and community groups to "adopt" a local child by purchasing gifts. The Jaycees participated with gifts for a local 10-year-old girl.

Holiday Banners – Monica Rigamonti

As most of you probably noticed, our Holiday Banners were not displayed this year. Due to the fact that there are now banners around the uptown area, The Highway Dept. was concerned, because we didn't have enough banners to fill all of the new poles so some of the sponsored banners would remain up, while others would be taken down for the season, they felt it best to not put any up this year. We understood and will put money in the budget for next year to get enough to fulfill all the spots. Thanks, Monica, for taking care of this.

If you have any community development ideas, feel free to reach out to me, lynda1061@aol.com, or 774-266-3140. If there's a project that interests you, let me know or call the Project Chairman.



Ways and Means

Vice President: Kris Long



Happy New Year Jaycee Friends. We have some great projects coming up and we are looking for some new ones too! If you have an idea about a new project, please reach out. It's almost time to start looking for Sponsors for Concerts on the common too. Maybe the company you work for would like to sponsor a concert, get their name out there! Do you know someone who might like to sponsor? Give me a call!! Enjoy January, and I hope to see you at the next GM!!

Note Cards - Lynda Walsh

We have some wonderful note cards for sale featuring photography by our own Bob Gillis. Blank inside, they make great gifts, or a way of sending notes to friends.

02035 Masks

With the recent resurgence of Covid, masks are becoming necessary again. We still have our "Entering Foxboro" imprinted masks available for sale. Contact Kris if you are interested.



2022 Car Show - Amy LaBrache

We have a fun event in the works. The committee met last Monday to discuss our vision and have set a date for Sunday, July 10th (with a Rain date of the 17th). We have been in contact with the downtown Business Association, and they are on board and excited to help! Everyone left with a job and will be meeting again soon. This has such potential and will be a huge undertaking. If you are at all interested in helping us plan, please reach out to Amy and she will get you the details!!! They will be meeting typically on Monday evenings every couple of weeks and more frequently as the event gets closer.



Membership

Vice President: Amy LaBrachz

Happy New Year everyone! I hope that this finds you well and that your holidays were great! With a new year, brings new ideas and new opportunities to be out in our community. With the next few months being a bit quiet, I find this is a perfect opportunity to focus on recruitment. First thing is getting our name out there. Being that we are the last chapter in Massachusetts it presents us with opportunity to grow beyond our town lines. Many of our members are not Foxboro residents. One thing I would love to explore is membership tables and events in other nearby towns. If you hear of any opportunities, please reach out to me or a member of the board. Wishing you all a very Happy New Year and hope to see you at the General Membership meeting

Best, Amy

Virtual Zoom Q and A - Amy and Max: We are thinking of branching this out to the surrounding area pages and seeing how it goes. If you are interested in helping, please let me know!

Referral Raffle: We have a few entries for this so far! Please invite a friend to check us out!! If you cannot attend with them, just let me know ahead of time so that you will get credit!

Junior Jaycees: We will be holding a Darkness to Light training in late January/ early February. It is super important that you try to make this if you are looking to help with this. We have an awesome opportunity to branch out and gain some new members while mentoring some young kiddos.

Who's Who – Lisa Jolicoeur: This is a project that helps us learn a little more about our fellow members. With some new members joining, I am sure we are going to have some exciting reading ahead of us! If Lisa sends you a questionnaire, fill it out and send it back – you could be featured in a future Wise Fox!

Membership Committee: If you are interested in sharing ideas and thoughts, please e-mail me.

Jaycees Apparel: I have plenty of T-Shirts!! If you need a T-shirt, please let me know. We have also purchased Junior sized t-shirts, so if your child is participating in upcoming events, they will earn a t-shirt as well! Do you have any ideas for something new? Send me an email with your thoughts! A few members have expressed interest in ordering hoodies and possibly fleece. If you are interested, send me an email at afoxb1@icloud.com.

**"Service To Humanity
Is
The Best Work Of Life!"**
www.FoxboroJaycees.org

Website – Bob Gillis: Our all-star webmaster is doing a wonderful job keeping our website current and looking good! Please be sure to send him any pictures or Jaycees-related information you might have for Jaycees events so that he can post them at <http://www.foxborojaycees.org>.

Jaycee Photographs: if you have any pictures of Jaycees or Jaycee events and would like to share them on the website please forward them to Bob. He will ensure that they are included appropriately.

Be sure to “Like” us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/FoxboroJaycees>) and Follow us on Twitter (@FoxboroJaycees) or find us on Instagram (foxborojaycees) and you can always find the latest updates at www.foxborojaycees.org. Please email Amy with any questions, or new ideas Afoxb1@icloud.com



You can also join in the discussion anytime with our Facebook “Foxboro Jaycees Chat” – Just ask Secretary Pam she can invite you to the Group. Find out the daily Holiday, share fun memes or just ask your fellow Jaycees, “what’s up?”



Some of the winners of the Holiday Lights Contest:

Above: “Clark Griswold” Award: The Donaway family, 355 South St

Left: “Toy Land” Award: The Geaudreau family, 100 Beach St.



Right: “The Wow Factor” and “People’s Choice” winner: The Silva family, 6 McNamara Way

