

Wise Fox

*A Monthly Publication of the
Foxboro Jaycees – December 2023*



Happy Holidays, Foxboro Jaycees!
Jaycees' good work contributed to set the stage for an amazing few weeks of Foxboro community spirit, starting with the Thanksgiving Turkeys for Vets and continuing through Common decorating, Nativity Set Up, and Light Up the Town with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Thank you to everyone who made the Turkeys for Veterans project so successful - this project is very special to me - and for the incredible turnout over the Thanksgiving weekend

to set up the Nativity set, decorate the Common, kick off the tree lighting, and greet Santa and Mrs. Claus during the festivities on the Common. The Jaycees spirit lies in the hard work that unites us in bonds of service for others, and our efforts to preserve these traditions reminds us why our community is so special.

To our Jaycee family, won't you join us to celebrate the good work of our organization and our bonds of friendship!

We hope to see you all, in person, for the GM on Wednesday, December 13th at 7:30pm at the South Foxboro Community Center! We will be holding our annual Yankee Swap and enjoying delicious holiday treats. Most importantly, we miss seeing you and want to share the joy of our community with you!

We will resume our Zoom meetings in January but will treasure this opportunity to celebrate the season of giving and hope with a toast to the holidays in traditional GM fashion: in person with holiday fun and lots of cookies!

Yours in Jaycee Spirit,

Deena Cummings





Secretary's Report

Pam Warren

Happy Holidays to Everyone! I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving and are looking forward to the upcoming Holiday season with Friends and Family. As a chapter we do more projects and events between Thanksgiving and New Year's than at any other time of the year. It was great to see so many people out for the Common decoration and Light Uptown, which helped restore the wonder and magic of the Season for me as I took pictures of the eager faces coming to see Santa and Mrs Claus. I am looking forward to baking lots of yummy cookies for the December GM and seeing everyone in person again. As always, 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. You can also ask to add any new ideas to the agenda. Send me an e-mail lccgazette@yahoo.com and I will assist.

Sunshine - 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 the November GMM:

October Jaycee: Alicia Bryant: Alicia ran our Vendor Fair Raffle again this year and keeps improving on the previous year with additional signage and decorations. She also was having back issues on the day, but despite not feeling 100% she was fully committed to the day and helped raise lots of funds for the Chapter. (Also Nominated were Deena Cummings, Pam Warren, Marian McCabe and Amy LaBrache)

October Project: Fall Vendor Fair – Deena Cummings: We had over 100 Vendors registered for the Fall Fair this year – the biggest Fall fair ever – and despite having to change to the rain Date, the event was Very well attended. The Common was full of Vendors and Shoppers all day and everyone had good things to say about it all. (Also nominated were the Mini Golf outing, Alzheimer's Walk and Vendor Fair Raffle)

If you want to see your name here – volunteer to run a project or come to help at one!

Something worth Celebrating...

December Birthdays:

Lisa Jolicoeur	16th
Sarah Bowlen	21st
Jordan Cummings-Dee	24th

December Anniversaries:

Max Loew	2008
Lisa Jolicoeur	2013
Thomas Sullivan	2014
Brandon Ryan	2021

Be sure to let us know if we don't have your birthdate (Month & Day) so we can recognize you here!



Jaycee of the month Alicia Bryant with CDVP Amy LaBrache at the Light Uptown event

Sadly, we did not manage to get any photos at the Fall Vendor Fair this year – for the happy reason that we were too busy helping customers to take the time...



Individual Development

Vice President: Marc Rivard

It's that most wonderful time of year. The Common decorations are looking beautiful as always. One of my favorite holiday rituals is the December General Membership Meeting with Yankee Swap and Pam's delicious cookies. Yum! I look forward to seeing you all there. Happy Holidays!!

Did you know?

- 1) The story of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer was written specifically as a sales gimmick for the Montgomery Ward Company in 1939 by one of their employees, Robert L. May. The little book was given freely to every customer who shopped there during the holiday season.
 - 2) The image of Santa as we know it today was popularized by none other than the Coca-Cola Company
- And now back to our regularly scheduled project updates.....

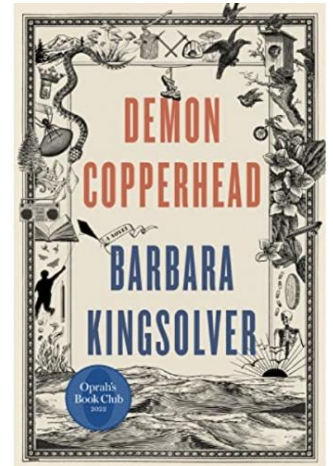
Book Club – Lisa Jolicoeur – December Meeting will be Thursday 12/7

On Thursday, November 2, 2023, Book Club members descended upon Bev O.'s house for an amazing spread of hot and cold appetizers, wine, tea, sweets, and key lime pie to discuss *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver, named 2023 Pulitzer Prize winner.

From the publisher: Set in the mountains of southern Appalachia, *Demon Copperhead* is the story of a boy born to a teenaged single mother in a single-wide trailer, with no assets beyond his dead father's good looks and copper-colored hair, a caustic wit, and a fierce talent for survival. Relayed in his own unsparing voice, Demon braves the modern perils of foster care, child labor, derelict schools, athletic success, addiction, disastrous loves, and crushing losses. Through all of it, he reckons with his own invisibility in a popular culture where even the superheroes have abandoned rural people in favor of generations ago, Charles Dickens wrote *David Copperfield* from his experience as a survivor of institutional poverty and its damages to children in his society. Those problems have yet to be solved in ours. Dickens is not a prerequisite for readers of this novel, but he provided its inspiration. In transposing a Victorian epic novel to the contemporary American South, Barbara Kingsolver enlists Dickens' anger and compassion, and above all, his faith in the transformative powers of a good story. *Demon Copperhead* speaks for a new generation of lost boys, and all those born into beautiful, cursed places they can't imagine leaving behind.

Several book club members loved the narrator in the audiobook; Lisa C. Played a section so everyone could hear what others found captivating. We loved discussing the location, Lee County, southern Appalachia, where the environment of poverty is an important part of the story. We explored topics surrounding foster homes, big Pharma's impact on the drug crisis, stereotyping. Although some parts of the novel were a bit drawn out, there were many impactful moments, including the ending.

The book earned mostly 1.5's but also some 1's and 2's as well as one 3 on our rating scale: 1 being "drop everything, turn off the phone, and read; no one should bother me until I am done; I might even be late for work or sunburned if reading outside; " 2 being "good, leave the phone on, recommend to my friends, not good enough to earn a 1 for a potential flaw, but worth reading"; 3 being "glad I bought it and read it, will talk to my book friends about it, but I am not recommending it to all my friends; 4 being "I regret paying money for the book, but it's tolerable if I didn't pay hard earned money for it"; and 5 being "I wish I had not read it and wasted precious hours of my life."



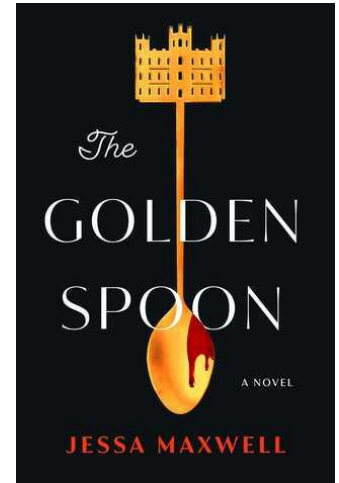
Looking ahead to December Book Club: Sandy D. Will host, and we will have a cookie swap (optional)

December 7 Book Choice: *The Golden Spoon* by Jessa Maxwell

Every summer for the past ten years, six awe-struck bakers have descended on the grounds of Grafton, the leafy and imposing Vermont estate that is not only the filming site for “Bake Week” but also the childhood home of the show’s famous host, celebrated baker Betsy Martin.

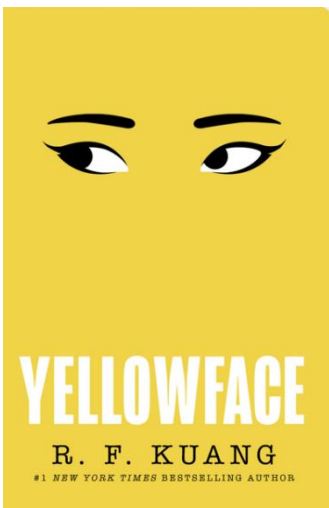
The author of numerous bestselling cookbooks and hailed as “America’s Grandmother,” Betsy Martin isn’t as warm off-screen as on, though no one needs to know that but her. She has always demanded perfection, and gotten it with a smile, but this year something is off. As the baking competition commences, things begin to go awry. At first, it’s merely sabotage—sugar replaced with salt, a burner turned to high—but when a body is discovered, everyone is a suspect.

A sharp and suspenseful thriller for mystery buffs and avid bakers alike, *The Golden Spoon* is a brilliant puzzle filled with shocking twists and turns that will keep you reading late into the night until you turn the very last page of this incredible debut.



January 4th Book Club: *Yellow Face* by R.F. Kuang.

Authors June Hayward and Athena Liu were supposed to be twin rising stars. But Athena’s a literary darling. June Hayward is literally nobody. Who wants stories about basic white girls, June thinks.



So when June witnesses Athena’s death in a freak accident, she acts on impulse: she steals Athena’s just-finished masterpiece, an experimental novel about the unsung contributions of Chinese laborers during World War I. So what if June edits Athena’s novel and sends it to her agent as her own work? So what if she lets her new publisher rebrand her as Juniper Song—complete with an ambiguously ethnic author photo? Doesn’t this piece of history deserve to be told, whoever the teller? That’s what June claims, and the *New York Times* bestseller list seems to agree.

But June can’t get away from Athena’s shadow, and emerging evidence threatens to bring June’s (stolen) success down around her. As June races to protect her secret, she discovers exactly how far she will go to keep what she thinks she deserves.

With its totally immersive first-person voice, *Yellowface* grapples with questions of diversity, racism, and cultural appropriation, as well as the terrifying alienation of social media. R.F. Kuang’s novel is timely, razor-sharp, and eminently readable.

February 1st Book Club Meeting: *Keeper of Lost Things* by Ruth Hogan.

Lime green plastic flower-shaped hair bobbles—Found, on the playing field, Derrywood Park, 2nd September.

Bone China cup and saucer—Found, on a bench in Riveria Public Gardens, 31st October. Anthony Peardew is the keeper of lost things. Forty years ago, he carelessly lost a keepsake from his beloved fiancée, Therese. That very same day, she died unexpectedly. Brokenhearted, Anthony sought consolation in rescuing lost objects—the things others have dropped, misplaced, or accidentally left behind—and writing stories about them. Now, in the twilight of his life, Anthony worries that he has not fully discharged his duty to reconcile all the lost things with their owners. As the end nears, he bequeaths his secret life’s mission to his unsuspecting assistant, Laura, leaving her his house and all its lost treasures, including an irritable ghost.



Recovering from a bad divorce, Laura, in some ways, is one of Anthony's lost things. But when the lonely woman moves into his mansion, her life begins to change. She finds a new friend in the neighbor's quirky daughter, Sunshine, and a welcome distraction in Freddy, the rugged gardener. As the dark cloud engulfing her lifts, Laura, accompanied by her new companions, sets out to realize Anthony's last wish: reuniting his cherished lost objects with their owners.

Long ago, Eunice found a trinket on the London pavement and kept it through the years. Now, with her own end drawing near, she has lost something precious—a tragic twist of fate that forces her to break a promise she once made.

As the Keeper of Lost Objects, Laura holds the key to Anthony and Eunice's redemption. But can she unlock the past and make the connections that will lay their spirits to rest?

Upcoming Projects:



Axe Throwing Crazy Axes – Patriot Place – Foxboro (TBD) Chair: Marian McCabe

Now this sounds right up my alley!! And if you do not know how to do this, don't worry, you may "axe" one of the staff (ugh)

Music Bingo Box Seats – North Attleboro or Franklin (Also now available at Rally Point) – TBD Chair: Amy LaBrache

Good tunes, bingo, food, and beverages. What is not to love about this!

Providence Bruins Pam Warren will be looking into our annual visit to see the P Bruins. More info to come.

New Project Ideas (Chairman needed)

These are some project ideas. If anyone would like to chair one of these or if you have any new ideas, please let me know!

- **Scat Night** – Get together at someone's home, eat, drink, and play cards - Anyone interested in bringing back this old Jaycee tradition?
- **Progressive Party** – Apps at one house, Dessert at another? Or perhaps change it up and do a "Theme night" Where everyone brings something that fits the theme... with the holidays approaching, another fun project that has been missing for a while.
- **Team Trivia** – takes place every Monday night at Conrad's
- **Cooking Class** Social Night – Get some folks together and learn how to prepare a favorite dish
- **Go-Kart Racing** – Supercharged in Wrentham – Also Bumper Cars, an Arcade and great Food!

Please see the calendar on the last page for December / January Events



Community Development

Vice President: Amy LaBrache

Completed Projects:

Veterans Day Essay Contest – November- Amy LaBrache:

The Essay contest was a huge success. All the children read their essays and some even had artwork that we were able to display in the lobby as attendees came in. Many thanks to the Legion, Ahern Middle School and the Jaycees that came to support this project. This will be an annual event.



Thank-you Turkeys for Veterans- Lynda Walsh:

All hands were on deck for this wonderful community project. Many thanks to their committee and the entire community that came out to deliver. It was a huge success!



Common Decoration/ Nativity Scene Set Up (Take Down scheduled for 1/6/24 - 9 AM)

The light poles and bushes are decorated, and the Nativity Scene is up. Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for your help, Jaycee members who came out and the friends in our community that assisted.

Light up the Town – 11/25:

Mr. and Mrs. Claus arrived uptown at Barrows for some pictures and then were whisked away by the fire department to help light the common. Great project and event!

Upcoming Projects:

Adopt a Kid / Senior- Lindsey Denault Hobart:

Lindsay is once again running this very important project! Thank you so much for helping us put smiles on faces this holiday season!

Fruit Basket Assembly - Date and location TBD – Sophia Manos & Monica Fisler:

Traditionally, we have partnered with the fine folks at Brigham and Women's to create fruit baskets to be included in the Holiday food baskets in December. Sophia is in the works putting this together. Stay tuned for details!

Holiday Light Contest- Caitlin Pignone:

Caitlin is working hard putting together what is to be a very festive contest. Details are going out on November 1st on our Social Media sites and website. Many new helpers this year to judge with us! See the Flyer at the end of this issue for more information.

Caroling on the Common – 12/21- Lynda Walsh:

This community favorite event will be on November 21st at 6PM. It will be held on the common weather permitting and will be held at the library if the weather is not favorable. Special thanks to the Foxboro High School brass band. Thank you, Lynda, for taking this project on!

Sand for Seniors- Sophia Manos and Mike Mills

Sophia and Mike will once again deliver buckets of Salt/Sand to help keep our Seniors safe this winter

If anyone has any questions, new ideas, please feel free to reach out to me at afoxb1@icloud.com

In Jaycee Spirit,

Amy





Ways and Means

Vice President: Sophia Manos



No major updates for this month. We did receive some donations on Giving Tuesday, so that is always good news. Every little bit helps!

As you all know the winter holidays is when we put forth the funding we earned over the last year toward the good of the community with decorations, spreading cheer with the light contests and sending out the Clauses, the traditional fruit baskets for discretionary families and getting a kid and senior some presents. Thank you for helping support our major fundraisers from 2023!

Happy Holidays!

Got Project fundraiser ideas? Submit to wm@foxborojaycees.org

Membership Committee

Junior Jaycees – Amy LaBrache & Caitlin Pignone:

We are working towards launching this by the end of the year. If you are interested in helping, please let me know as Amy will have to run a CORI and have you take Darkness to light. But this is a huge opportunity to revive our membership!

NY Eve Kid's Party – Would be a great starter project for the Kid's group. Caitlin & Amy are looking into possible locations and activities. Party would be for Middle School kids.

Membership Committee:

We are always looking for new ideas to recruit new members to keep our chapter running.

Jaycees Apparel:

We still have T-Shirts!! We are still planning to order new ones as well. If you need a T-shirt (or a specific size), please let Amy 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! If you are interested, send Amy an email at afoxb1@icloud.com.



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

Website – Bob Gillis:

Bob does an amazing job keeping our website current and maintaining the archives! Check out the list of Vendors for the fall fair or take a walk down memory lane with the photo galleries from projects in years past – you might find some inspiration for reviving a classic. 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 or social media, please forward them to Bob Gillis or Marc Rivard. You do not need to be on the board to contribute to the website, our social media, or Wise Fox. If you have something to share, please send it to Bob, Marc, or Pam.

Social Media: Be sure to “Like” us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/FoxboroJaycees>) and follow us on X – Formerly Twitter (@FoxboroJaycees) or find us on Instagram (foxborojaycees) and you can always find the latest updates at www.foxborojaycees.org. Please email the board with any questions or new ideas: jayceesfoxboro@gmail.com

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5	6	7 Book Club – 7pm “The Golden Spoon” by Jessa Maxwell	8 Hanukkah Begins 	9
10	11	12	13 <i>GM in Person</i> <i>7:30 PM at SFCC</i>	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Caroling on the Common	22	23
24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day 	26	27 Board meeting on Zoom	28	29	30
31 New Year’s Eve Kids Party	1	2	3	4	5	6

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 New Year’s Day	2	3	4 Book Club – 7pm “Yellow Face” by R.F. Kuang	5	6 <i>Common Deco & Nativity Take down</i>
7	8	9	10 <i>GM on Zoom</i> <i>7:30 PM</i>	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Board meeting on Zoom	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4



HOLIDAY *Light Contest*

TO REGISTER EMAIL
DECO@FOXBOROJAYCEES.ORG
BY DEC 10

VOTING BEGINS DEC 15
& CLOSSES DEC 22

CONTEST CATEGORIES

HOMETOWN SPIRIT

SHOW OFF THE BLUE AND GOLD!

MERRY & BRIGHT

SHOWS THE MOST HOLIDAY SPIRIT

MISFIT TOY

MOST INFLATABLES

FAN FAVORITE

GETS THE PEOPLE TALKIN'

FRIEND OF ELECTRIC COMPANY

MOST USE OF LIGHTS

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD EFFORT

MOST HOUSES DECORATED TOGETHER

BUSINESS SHOWCASE

CURB APPEAL

