

Wise Fox

A Monthly Publication of the
Foxboro Jaycees – January 2024



Happy New Year, Foxboro Jaycees!!

New Year's Day invites us to reflect upon meaningful experiences that shaped the prior year but with eyes forward to find opportunities to improve, build, and grow from those experiences.

The pandemic, for example, stripped us of simple joys we once took for granted: good health, a sense of security – for ourselves and those in our community. The recent storm put members of our community in the dark for days. Such tests

shook our foundation but ultimately inspired a stronger sense of community.

So, with mindful reflection and gratitude for the health, joy, and bonds of friendship, I am thankful for 2023 and all the amazing success the Jaycees had with treasured traditions and projects, and look forward to 2024, inspired by what we have learned and gained from our experiences.

I am grateful to each and every one of you who made a difference in 2023. Driving by the Foxboro Common filled with festive lights and the beautiful nativity set fills me with a sense of pride because the holiday season for the entire community is brighter and more beautiful because of our good work.

To my Jaycee family, I wish you all good health and safe tidings. I also hope to see you in 2024 during which we can collaborate on our good work together!

Happy New Year,

Deena Cummings

Happy
New Year!



Secretary's Report

Pam Warren

First of all, I want to wish you all a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year! We made it through our busy Holiday season. Soon it will be time to start gearing up for all our Spring events. In this slower time, we need to enjoy some fun stuff for ourselves – I am putting together the trip to see the Providence Bruins on February 25th at the AMP in Providence. If you are interested in joining us, email or text me (716-866-6888) with the number of tickets you want. I will have a price per person soon. Our January meeting will be on Zoom, but we plan to be back in person in February. 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 locgazette@yahoo.com and I will assist.

Sunshine – We want to say Congratulations to Vanessa and Sam Shirley who just announced the impending arrival of their first child! 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 December GMM:

November Jaycees: Kris Long and Ed Groh: Kris and Ed brought the magic of Christmas to life as Santa and Mrs. Claus during the Light Uptown event. (Also Nominated were Pam Warren, Amy LaBrache and Lynda Walsh)

November Project: Turkeys for Vets – Lynda Walsh: This was a Fantastic community event that brought out a lot of folks to help deliver Turkeys and Thanksgiving cheer to the Veterans. (Also nominated were the Veteran's Day Essay contest, the Common Decorating / Nativity Set-up and Light Uptown Event)

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

Something worth Celebrating...

January Birthdays:

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| John Underwood | 3 rd |
| Kevin Mack | 7 th |
| Deena Cummings | 21 st |
| Amy LaBrache | 28 th |
| John Zarella | |
| Kelly Reid | |

January Anniversaries:

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

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



Thanks to Lynda Walsh and Jim Devellis for putting together the 11th annual Turkey delivery to the local veterans – Our Project of the Month

Our Jaycees of the Month brought smiles and wonder to hundreds of children at the Light Uptown event – who knew that Santa and Mrs. Claus were Jaycees?



Individual Development

Vice President: Marc Rivard

Happy New Year!!!! Have you made your resolutions for 2024? My resolution is to bring some guest speakers to our in-person General Membership meetings. While we usually identify individual development with fun events for our members, it is also an opportunity to learn about new things and broaden our knowledge base. I have a couple of possible speakers in the pipeline. Keep an eye out for more information here in the Wise Fox and in your email for announcements soon! It would be great to have a huge turnout from the chapter for our guests. And as always, if you have an idea for a guest speaker or would like to chair a fun event, please let me know.

Did you know?

The first Times Square New Year's party was thrown for a newspaper. The annual tradition of gathering in Times Square for New Year's started as a party to celebrate the opening of the New York Times building in 1904. Over 200,000 people attended.

The first New Year's celebration dates back 4,000 years. Julius Caesar, the emperor of Rome, was the first to declare Jan. 1 a national holiday. He named the month after Janus, the Roman god of doors and gates. Janus had two faces, one looking forward and one looking back. Caesar felt that a month named after this god would be fitting.

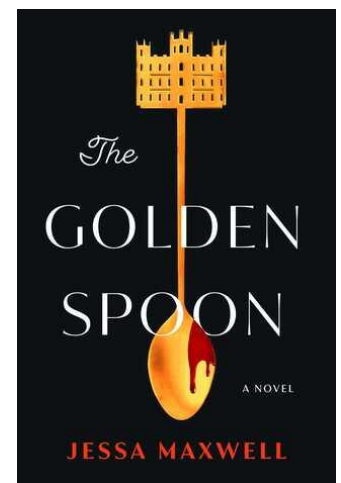
And now back to our regularly scheduled project updates.....

Book Club – Lisa Jolicoeur – January Meeting will be Thursday 1/4

On Thursday, December 7, 2023, Book Club members enjoyed a book-inspired holiday cookie swap at Sandy's home while feasting on treats with delicious warm wassail (rum optional)! Thank you, Sandy!!

The Golden Spoon by Jessa Maxwell offered a light but enjoyable descent into somewhat familiar (if you watch the British Baking Show!) characters trying to out bake competitors as part of a reality baking show set at an estate in Vermont, the fictional home of Betsy Martin, called Grafton. Bake Week is full of sabotage - "Salt Gate," Gasoline Gate," for example - until a gruesome murder, literally on top the tent, stops production and forces the exposing of Betsy's dark past. We had a lot of fun swapping baked treats - our baking was without drama, of course, but still a fun way to share some holiday fare!

Overall, while many of us found the book to be a page turner, most found it a bit predictable and more fun than "literary": The book earned mostly 2.5's but also some 3's 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."



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

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:

Providence Bruins: We have chosen a date for our Annual outing to see the Providence Bruins – Sunday February 25th at 3:05 pm, The P-Bruins take on Cleveland on 90's Weekend at The AMP! Join us as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the 1999 Calder Cup Championship team with 90's game presentation, flashback moments, and much more! Pam Warren will be contacting the Group Sales department to get the discounted ticket price – the more the merrier. Let her know if you are interested in attending.



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

Marian is looking into details and Potential dates for this – stay tuned

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

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... 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 for January / February Events



President Deena swore in two new members during our December General Meeting which also included our annual Yankee Swap and lots of yummy treats. Welcome to the Chapter Gabby Grondalski and Kyle Godinho!



Community Development

Vice President: Amy LaBrache

Completed Projects:

Adopt a Kid / Senior- Lindsey Denault Hobart:

Lindsay took on this very important project again this year. Thank you so much for helping us put smiles on faces this holiday season!

Fruit Basket Assembly – 12/18 at St Mark's – Sophia Manos & Monica Fisler:

Many thanks to the folks from Brigham and Women's and to our two Newest Members – Gabby & Kyle – who came out to put together 240 fruit baskets that were included in the Discretionary Fund's Holiday deliveries in December. The project went very quickly and efficiently, and the baskets were ready to go in almost no time.



Holiday Light Contest- Caitlin Pignone:

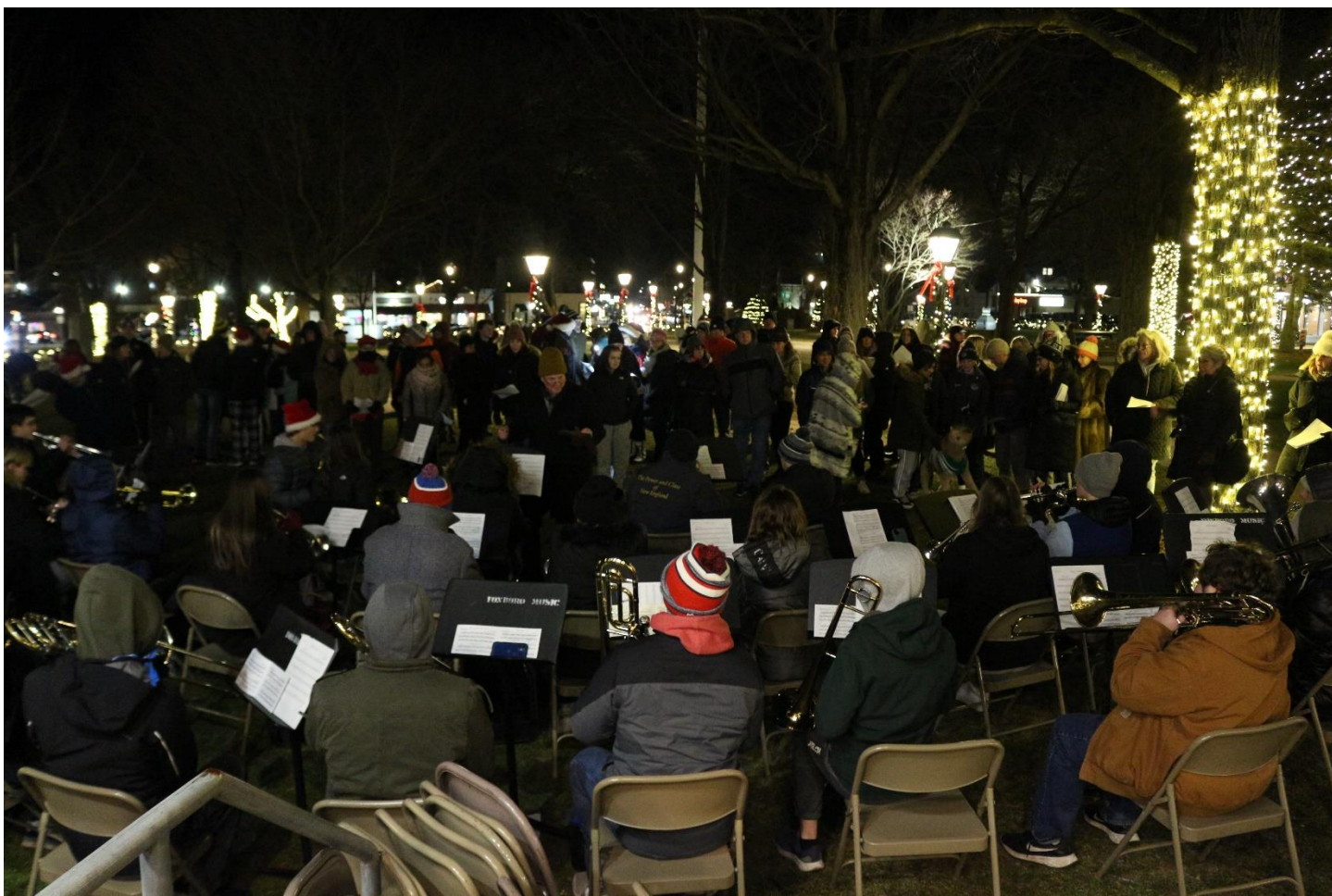
Caitlin Did a great job with the Light Contest this year, getting help from the community to judge the homes and introducing new categories. The Flyer was posted with the winners on Social Media (and appears after the calendar at the end of this issue)

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

A large crowd gathered on the Common the Thursday before Christmas to spread some holiday cheer, enjoy some hot cocoa and sing a traditional round of holiday carols. Special thanks to Mr. Massey and the Foxboro High School brass band for leading the sing-along. Thank you, Lynda, for taking this project on!

Amy and Lynda Serving Cocoa >>>





Mr. Massey and the Foxboro High School Band leading the crowd in Caroling.

Upcoming Projects:

Common Decoration/ Nativity Scene Take Down – 1/6/24 - 9 AM)

It's time to take down all the decorations and stow away the Nativity set before the snow hits us – we will gather on the common at 9am to get it all put away. This takes much less time than putting it all up, but the more hands we have to help, the faster it will go...

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. They have already delivered some – but more requests are sure to come.

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 again for this month.

But we do have the first major standard fundraiser of the year coming in early May with the Spring Vendor Fair.

Committee meetings will begin in early March. If you are interested, please reach out to Deena, Pam or me.

Happy New Year!

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!

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.



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 find us on Instagram ([foxborojaycees](https://www.instagram.com/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

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 Common Deco & Nativity Take down |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 <i>GM on Zoom 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 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 |

February 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------|---------|---|--|--------|----------|
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 Book Club – 7pm "The Keeper of Lost Things" by Ruth Hogan | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 <i>GM in Person 7:30 PM at SFCC</i> Valentines Day  | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 Providence Bruins Game 3:05 PM | 26 | 27 | 28 Board meeting on Zoom | 29 | 1 | 2 |



HOLIDAY *Light Contest*

WINNERS!

HOMETOWN SPIRIT
8 TURNER RD

MERRY & BRIGHT
3 JAMES STREET

MISFIT TOY
100 BEACH STREET

FAN FAVORITE
4 SAMSON RD

FRIEND OF ELECTRIC COMPANY
355 SOUTH STREET

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD EFFORT
PETERSON LANE

BUSINESS SHOWCASE
STATION ONE BREWERY

