

Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting

FRIENDLY LINE

June 2024



Keeping the Faith Across the Generations, Theme for Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), July 24-28

Registration is open for Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Annual Sessions 2024 to be held July 24-28 at Scattergood Friends School. The theme for the week is Keeping the Faith Across the Generations.

This year, DMV Friends will be well-represented in sessions that include an intergenerational panel on Quakerism Wednesday evening, which will include Peter Clay and Addison Williamson. A report and videos from a storytelling project with Quakers and Scattergood students Thursday evening that DMVF have been part of. Corey Suesakul and Deborah Fisch will be on stage to assist special guest, musician and Quaker historian Peter Blood in an evening presentation, “Transforming the World Through Radical Obedience & Communal Song,” led by Peter Blood, co-compiler of songbooks Rise Up Singing, Rise Again and The Pete Seeger Songbook. Blood will also present a workshop on Quaker history on Thursday afternoon.

Activities and programs will also include Bible studies, FCNL and AFSC workshops, IYM(C) business, great food and great company. A program is included on the last page of this newsletter. Find all the details, including the online registration form at: <https://www.iymc.org/2024-annual-sessions/>. **Please register by 5 p.m. on July 3** to help with housing, meal planning and programming for children.

Celebrate History on Juneteenth, June 19

by Billie Wade

African Americans have celebrated Juneteenth, possibly the oldest African American holiday in the United States, since June 19, 1866. One year earlier, enslaved people in Galveston, Texas, learned of their freedom. The Emancipation Proclamation, signed into law by then-President Abraham Lincoln on Jan. 1, 1863, freed nearly four million enslaved African Americans. Juneteenth, the

mash-up of June and nineteenth, heralded our freedom, in part, from the cruel bondage of slavery.

The president sought to avoid the ire of Union-loyal states by not including them in the Proclamation. Ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States on Dec. 6, 1865, freed slaves in all states, including Union states. President Lincoln did not live to

A Quaker Minute

Spiritual Diversity

*inspired by Val Ferguson,
General Secretary of FWCC
(1991)*

A foundational Quaker belief is that there is that of God in everyone. This Inward Light is a teacher and guide to a virtuous life.

Quakers today number some 400,000 in over 80 countries. They differ in language, culture and national allegiance, and in the emphases that they place on different aspects of Quakerism.

Present-day Friends range from groups emphasizing belief in scriptural inerrancy and the divinity of Christ to those with mystical tendencies, which emphasize the doctrine of the universal Light and the basic harmony of all deep religious experience.

Friends honor the diversity of Humanity and respect the various responses to the Divine Presence in our lives.

One in a series on Quaker history and practice, contributed by Pam Blackburn.

see slaves freed, as his assassination took place on April 14, 1865.

While Black American Descendants of Slaves celebrated Juneteenth every year, the date
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**Des Moines Valley Friends
MEETING FOR WORSHIP
WITH ATTENTION TO
BUSINESS 5/12/2024**

Attending via Zoom or in

person: Charlie Brown; Andrea Holveck; Addison Williamson; Ann Robinson; Dick Douglass; Bob Henderson; Jack Holveck; Jon Tesdell; Virginia Smith; Fred Nelson; Katie Jacoby. Carol Spaulding-Kruse, clerk; Deborah Fisch was appointed to take minutes for the day since the recording clerk was out of town.

Meeting for worship with attention to business opened near the appointed hour with a time of waiting worship. Carol Spaulding Kruse, clerk, reminded F/friends that it was Mother's Day and asked they seek to be especially mindful of the Spirit when discerning whether or not what one might add would help move Friends toward clearness of the business before the Body, adding that many may have special plans for later in the day.

Old Business

Fourth Month Minutes

Minute 1 – The minutes from last month's (04/2024) meeting for worship with attention to business prepared by Claire Cumbie Drake, recording clerk, were approved.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee and

Treasurer – Both the report of the Finance Committee (FC) (prepared by Catherine Dietz-Kilen, clerk) and the Treasurer's Report (prepared by Katie Jacoby, treasurer) were presented by Katie Jacoby.

The reports were without surprises and showed that Meeting continues to be in good financial shape. Finance Committee has prepared a proposed six-month budget from 07/01/24 to 12/31/2024. The six-month budget is needed to allow Meeting to have a smooth transition to the new calendar-year budget from 01/01 to 12/31/2025.

The treasurer explained that the proposed increase in item #3 is due to an increase in the cost of the meeting's share of property insurance purchased through Friends House.

Minute 2 – Friends received the reports of the Finance Committee and the Treasurer with gratitude. Meeting approves the proposed budget increase from \$1,350.00 to \$1,419.00 to cover the meeting's share of the increase in property insurance shared with Friends House .

Finance Committee & Budget Report (Catherine Dietz-Kilen, clerk) The committee met on 04/17/2024. In attendance: Catherine Dietz-Kilen, Katie Jacoby, Dorothy Lifka and Dick Douglass.

1. **Financial Statement** – The Committee reviewed and approved the 03/2024 financial reports.
2. **Proposed Budget** – We began discussions for the proposed budget for the six months of 7/01/2024 through 12/31/2024 with plans to present the proposed budget to business meeting for consideration. We will ask for questions and comments, both at business meeting and thereafter until next scheduled meeting on

05/15/2024, at which time it will be our intention to finalize our proposed budget to be presented at business meeting for final approval.

3. **Action Item** –The current budget for fiscal year 2023/2024 allocates \$1,350.00 for our share of the insurance purchased through Friends House. The actual share of the insurance premium is \$1,419.00. Therefore, it is necessary to amend the current budget for fiscal year 2023/2024 to increase the amount that is budgeted for the insurance that we share with Friends House, from \$1,350.00 to \$1,419.00.

4. **Elevator Phone** – Because we no longer have a landline at the Meeting House, the phone in the elevator is inoperable. It may be necessary to reinstall a landline in order for the elevator to pass inspection. If it is necessary, Finance Committee will speak with Friends House Board about sharing the cost of reinstalling a landline.

5. **Friends House Assessment** – The architecture assessment of Friends House included an assessment of the Friends' Meetinghouse. The initial report outlines a number of potentially very expensive projects that may need to be done in the near future. Finance Committee decided to ask the Buildings and Ground Committee if they would like to meet with us to start putting together the questions that will need to be answered as we move forward with decisions regarding the physical structure of Friends House and Friends Meetinghouse. We will invite Renee, the Friends House manager to join us.

6. Next Committee Meeting – Our next scheduled meeting will be on the third Wednesday of next month 05/15/2024 at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom. All are welcome.

Ministry & Counsel Report

(prepared by Peter Clay – substitute convener)

The committee met on 05/05/2024. In attendance: Gordon Bivens, Andrea Holveck, Dorothy Lifka, Deborah Fisch and Peter Clay (convening for Jim D-K).

We considered the present needs of others within our meeting as we are aware of them.

The committee approved a request from Peter Clay for \$200 from the Quaker Education, Enrichment & Advocacy Fund to help with his expenses to attend this year's FGC Gathering at Haverford College, 06/30 to 07/06.

The committee approved providing the \$563 balance Logan Jimenez had originally requested from the Education, Enrichment and Advocacy Fund to help with expenses for the trip recently taken to Washington, DC, to attend the FCNL Lobby Weekend.

We devoted most of our time to consideration of our state of the meeting report for Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative's (IYMC) 2024 Annual Sessions. The IYMC M&C Committee has provided us with new guidance as we prepare our State of the Meeting Report. We used this new template to guide us as we gathered thoughts. A draft will be ready to present to Meeting when we gather to conduct our business next month.

We decided to defer until next month further consideration of

changes to “Introductions, Joys and Concerns, and Announcements” following worship.

Friends thanked the committee and expressed appreciation for the report.

Outreach & Publications

Katie Jacoby presented highlights of the report and encouraged everyone to read the full report.

T-shirts – Friends discussed the proposal for DMVF t-shirts. The proposal was met with approval, but later, after further discussion regarding the design, it was decided to continue discernment.

PrideFest 2024 – As a follow-up to last year's conversation we discussed participation in the upcoming Capital City PrideFest. Options are to march in the parade and/or staff a booth. An ad hoc committee was named with Addison, Ann, Deborah and Katie agreeing to be on it. A follow-up email will be sent out with more information. The meeting asked that the committee figure out the costs for entry fees, decorations and/or banners and what funds would be needed beyond Outreach & Publications budget so it can be covered elsewhere or the budget can be amended to cover it.

Minute 3 – Friends received the Outreach & Publications Committee report with on-going appreciation for the work of the committee. Meeting approves covering costs that go above the Outreach & Publications Committee's budget for participation by Meeting in the upcoming PrideFest parade (\$50) and renting a booth for the weekend celebration if enough

people are available to staff it (\$300). Additional costs will include the cost of purchasing a banner and decorations.

Outreach & Publications

Committee Report –

04/30/2024 (prepared by Katie Jacoby, clerk). Attending: Ann Robinson, Billie Wade, Katie Jacoby, Lindsey Baker

T-shirts – We discussed the purchase of t-shirts as a form of outreach when we are at actions/events/ just out and about in the world. We discussed a couple of slogans. We liked *Quakers, speaking truth to power since 1652*. However, we are suggesting the following slogan *Let your life speak*. Our thoughts are that it is succinct, speaks to everyone and doesn't require a background in Quaker history to explain. (1652!? Say what?)

The committee suggests working with Raygun (<https://www.raygunsite.com/pages/usa-made>.) They're a local business, a union shop, have responsible sourcing of materials and have a distinct design aesthetic. One-side, one-color printing starts at \$13.50/shirt. Two-sides, one-color starts at \$14.50/shirt and we could choose three shirt colors. Attached is a mockup of how the shirt could look, but of course we are open to suggestions. Raygun offers design advice as well.

SUGGESTION FOR T-SHIRT

(Formatting is a little off, but a general idea of Raygun style.)



Social Media – Lindsey joined us for the first time, and we discussed ways to increase our social media presence. We discussed ways to maximize awareness of events – ours and others we support, and what media we might utilize in addition to our Facebook page? At this point in time it seems Instagram would be a good addition. Lindsey will do an audit of our social media/ website/how to optimize search results/ first contact with DMVF. We're very enthusiastic to have Lindsey bring his expertise to our committee!

We discussed updating our website with a fresh look. Content wouldn't necessarily change but we are seeking input on the kinds of content members would like or that seekers might be looking for.

Committee Logistics – We have been meeting irregularly. We've set a monthly meeting time, while acknowledging that there is some information we can share via texting/email and there may be some months we won't need to meet.

Regarding the Sign that Hangs on the Corner of 42nd & Grand – We will look into what it will cost to refurbish or replace this sign. As to a larger sign, a member suggested to us that as an alternative to looking into banners, we instead look into permanent signage. Lindsey suggested that we consider being a part of "the Aves" art walk (Ingersoll and Grand Avenues group), so instead of a straightforward block letter type sign maybe we'd have a mural. Katie has made initial contact with The Avenues group and will

look into city restrictions on signs. We are initially thinking of something that could be created on the brick wall or the south side of the building. When we gather more information we'll bring this back to the meeting.

Religious Education

Committee Report 04/18/2024
(Dorothy Lifka, clerk)

Present: Dorothy Lifka, Andrea Holveck, Deborah Fisch, Kari Noble

Budget requests: Budget request for next six months: \$125. May ask for more for year 2025 if we have younger Friends attending or for a field trip. Will encourage teens to go to YMC Annual Sessions – payment for their attendance and adults who might go with them wouldn't have to come out of RE budget.

Window in Childcare Room

Wall: Charlie Brown has offered to put the window into childcare wall. Dorothy will remind him.

Activity Bags: Andrea Holveck will help put together activity bags for *Sparkling Still* curriculum for preschool and school age kids.

Teens: Plan special summer activities, maybe a service project.

Background Checks: All members and attenders of DMVFs who might work with youth will be encouraged to get background checks. The RE convener will keep track of who has been approved to work with youth.

Friends received the Religious Education report with gratitude to those who work with and support our young people.

Building & Grounds

Committee Report (prepared by Dick Douglass, convener)

Mark Gruber has provided us an assessment of the meetinghouse gutters. He sees no evidence of leaking and recommends repairing and replacing the gutter guards displaced last winter. He has agreed to take on this project, which should be done by the end of June.

Our next step over the next two months is to secure bids for repair and protection of several sections of our brick walls. Feel free to send along questions or concerns to committee members or me.

There are other repairs needed and the committee is in the process of evaluating costs and prioritizing those repairs.

We also learned that there is not a requirement that the old hard-wired smoke detectors that are no longer working be replaced with the same kind of detectors. Therefore the no-longer-functioning hard-wired detectors will be replaced with ones that are a less costly battery-run type. The pull-down fire alarms will still set off alarms in both buildings and all floors.

The meeting received the report with much appreciation for the dedication of the committee.

Friends House Board

The next scheduled quarterly meeting for Friends House Board is 07/19/2024.

Peace and Social Concerns Report (Patty Wengert, convener)

Present: Billie Wade, Patty and Jack Holveck met via zoom.

We began with a moment of silence. We discussed the change from fiscal to calendar year.

Our June meeting will be on the first Tuesday, but our July meeting will be on the second Tuesday.

We approved two donations, one to Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice, and one for the Mothers of Palestine luncheon organized by Kathleen McQuillen and Catholic Peace Ministry.

The committee discussed our commitment to community policing issues and racial disparity as well as maternal health racial disparity and how our meeting may keep informed of justice issues to seek progress for the good of all community members here. We will plan Second Hour programs in these areas.

We discussed our budget in connection with the plan for 07/01 12/31/2024. If we have not distributed our current funds to organizations, should our meeting approve more funds at this time?

Billie Wade, Jack Holveck and Patty Wengert agreed to stay on in their committee roles through the 12/31/2024.

The meeting received the report of P&SC with appreciation.

New/Other Business

1. IYMC Entertainment Committee – Ann Robinson will have a report from the Entertainment Committee for this year’s Annual Session of IYMC in the next Friendly Line.

2. Communal Meal – Addison discussed his idea of sponsoring a communal vegan meal for the purpose of fellowship, outreach

PrideFest 2024: *Our 2024 PrideFest will be filled with a spirit of queer joy, liberation and protest as we continue to ignite change in our community and celebrate our rainbow of diversity.*



DMVF(f)riends Peter, Katie, Ann, Deborah, Addison, Logan (pictured) and Forrest and Jon Krieg participated in the PrideFest parade, June 9. It was a rewarding experience that left us all energized. We are hopeful that it might bring an individual or two in to check us out. Along the route in the East Village an emcee for the parade seemed somewhat confused about Quakers(!?), but they did give us an impromptu slogan: *Quakers do what Quakers do!* Indeed.

-- Katie Jacoby

and education for the meeting. Addison is willing to prepare a main dish and others would contribute sides. This would start on a monthly basis for DMV Friends and possibly, in time, other faith communities would be invited to attend. There would be a free-will donation, with food costs for the main dish being reimbursed and any balance returned to the meeting. Addison asked if he should work with Outreach & Publications Committee or perhaps Ministry and Counsel. The clerk asked that he write a proposal to bring to the next business meeting.

3. Comparison Project – The clerk reported that the

Comparison Project has asked the meeting to update its information on the CP website.

Minute 4 – Meeting approves updating its information on the Comparison Project website. Katie Jacoby has offered to assist with this.

The business being concluded the clerk closed the meeting with a brief time of waiting worship.

News of Our Friends

During their recent visit to the east coast, **Dorothy Lifka** and **Mike Martin** stumbled on the oldest Quaker Meeting in the U.S. in Sandwich, MA. One of the meeting members, Lewis Randa, grew up in Des Moines and hopes to attend DMVF when he visits family this summer. On the way home, Dorothy and Mike visited granddaughter, Thea Steinbach, in Troy, NY. Thea has one semester left before graduating and will then start a doctoral program in engineering at RPI. She is working at RPI for the summer.

David Drake had an inspiring Iowa View in the Des Moines Register on May 26, reporting a visit he and Claire took to Ausin in April: "What I saw at a Texas tiny home village that could be copied in Des Moines." Read it to feel more hopeful about what can be done to address issues of homelessness, housing and related concerns.

Peter Clay requests support in monitoring his home. He will be traveling for much of the next few months and can travel more comfortably if he has help checking on his home, especially after severe weather. Peter asks Friends who may be able to help to contact him directly at peterclay1@me.com or at 515-599-1980 (voice, voicemail, text, WhatsApp).

Friends note the passing of **Dana Harr**, Iowa City, who had for a time worshiped at Des Moines Valley Friends with her husband **Barclay Kuhn**. Read Dana's obituary at <https://www.desmoinesregister.com/obituaries/piow0828710>



Gordon Bivens and his wife Martha have adopted a new, older dog named Baby Cakes, shown here relaxing with new pal Marley.

Query#1 for July: Meeting for Worship

ADVICE

Meeting for worship is the heart of the meeting. In the silence, we seek direct communion with God the Spirit, conscious of the seeking of others. From the depths of living silence may come an awareness of the presence of the Spirit.

Sometimes the silence is unbroken. At other times, a message may come to any one of us which seems intended not simply for the worshiper, but for the gathering as a whole. If the message is not expressed, one may feel a sense of not having been faithful to a leading of the Spirit, but if it is spoken, a sense of peace may follow. We are most effective if we speak clearly, simply and from our own experience. Because we are unique individuals who come from varied backgrounds and life experiences, our messages reflect diversity.

Part of our worship together is listening with an open spirit, holding the speaker in love, remembering that silence after the message is part of the message. Our daily lives are linked with meeting for worship. In the search for truth, Friends are encouraged to spend time in individual study, meditation or prayer and to be open to other sources of inspiration around us. The life of the meeting may be strengthened by a deep level of sharing, discussion or worship at times other than regularly scheduled meetings.

Friends should make an effort to arrive at meeting for worship prepared in mind and spirit to support one another in a worshipful atmosphere. As we give and receive, in speech or in silence, we are drawn together in the life of the Spirit.

QUERIES

- Are our meetings for worship held in a spirit of expectant waiting and communion with the Holy Spirit?
- How do we prepare our hearts and minds for worship?
- How do we refer to that which is divine? How does ascribing gender to the Holy Spirit affect our worship?
- How do we integrate our daily lives with meeting for worship? Do we seek opportunities for worship outside of meeting?
- How does the vocal ministry of the meeting contribute to its spiritual life? Do we recognize and nurture vocal ministry and other spiritual gifts?

Juneteenth

(continued from page 1)

the date did not become a federal holiday until June 17, 2021, 150 years after General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, with General Order Number Three. President Joe Biden signed June 19 into law Juneteenth as the second African American holiday, following Martin Luther King Day, signed into law by then-President Ronald Reagan. He signed the bill on November 2, 1983, designating the third Monday in January as the holiday.

Federal recognition of Juneteenth came about because of the perseverance of Dr. Opal Lee, a lifelong resident of Fort Worth, Texas, and a retired teacher and counselor. Lauded as the ‘Grandmother of Juneteenth,’ the self-proclaimed ‘little old lady in tennis shoes,’ walked from Fort Worth to Washington, D.C., and delivered over 1.5 million signatures to President Biden. She walked 300 of the 1,400-mile route in 2.5-mile increments to represent the 2.5 years it took for the Emancipation Proclamation to reach Galveston. At age 96, she continues to hold a 2.5k walk every Juneteenth.

Dr. Lee is the recipient of two honorary doctorate degrees. In 2022, Congress nominated her for the Nobel Peace Prize, and on May 3, 2024, President Biden awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest nonmilitary honor in the United States. Her portrait is one of only two African American’s hanging in the Texas State Capitol, in Austin, in the Senate chamber.

Though I am the offspring of

Southern parents, I knew nothing about Juneteenth until three years ago. I heard about the celebration for several decades; but knew no one who celebrated, despite living in an all-Black neighborhood and attending an all-Black church.

As I conducted research last year, I learned the significance of the holiday. This year, I found out even more. I endeavor to keep fresh the plight of African American Descendants of Slaves in the minds of Friends. When we cease to talk about our past and our present, some people see us as complacent and acquiescent. We cannot afford to let that happen.

Dr. Lee calls us all to action. In one interview she told reporters, “Change somebody’s mind because minds can be changed. If people can be taught to hate, they can be taught to love, and it is up to you to do it.”

Upcoming Hosting List

June 16 – Deborah & Katie
June 23 – David I& Claire
June 30 – Peter & Andrea
July 7 – Logan & Corey
July 14 – Jim & Catherine
July 21 – Steve & Kari

Des Moines Valley Friends

Meeting for Worship: Sundays at 10 a.m., at the Meeting House and by Zoom via email invitation from clerk, Carol Spaulding-Kruse, at

carol.spaulding@drake.edu

Meeting for Worship/Business: Regularly held on the second First Day each month at 1 p.m.

Upcoming Second Hours: To be announced

Query Discussions: First Sundays, 11:45 a.m. - Online & in person. Billie Wade, facilitator.

Child Care: If you have a child who would like to be included in Zoom childcare or first day school for older youth, contact Dorothy at dmlifka@yahoo.com.

Building & Grounds: Questions about the building or grounds of the Meeting House to Building & Grounds Committee Convenor, Dick Douglass, 515-864-1119.

Hospitality Committee: Questions about housekeeping at the Meeting House to Hospitality Committee convenor Charlie Brown, 515-689-6470.

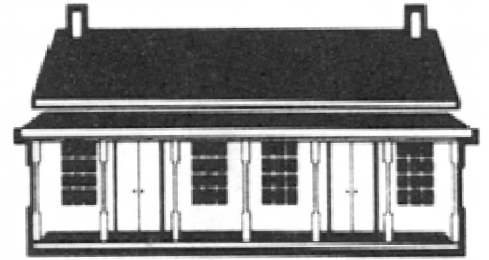
Friendly Line: Send info for April FL to Ann Robinson at anny.robinson1@gmail.com by Friday, June 28.

Find us online at: <https://www.desmoinesvalleyfriends.org/>

Check out our Facebook group for members/attenders. To be added, email Jan Falb, at jfalb0326@yahoo.com.

PROGRAM for 147th ANNUAL SESSIONS

In-person and via Zoom
Seventh Month 24-28, 2024
Scattergood Friends School
1951 Delta Ave, West Branch, Iowa



Keeping the Faith – Across the Generations

EVENING COLLECTIONS

► Wednesday

Panel: IYMC Faith & Practice Across Generations

Moderated by Peter Clay, with Seasoned Friends and Newcomers

► Thursday

Open Book Storytelling Project

Moderated by J.J. Kapur, with contributions from Scattergood videographers and IYMC storytellers

► Friday

Transforming the World through Radical Obedience and Communal Song

Peter Blood and IYMC Friends

► Saturday

Scattergood-led Talent Show

Moderated by John Zimmerman

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

► Sunday

Pre-Meeting - Reflections on Quaker beatitudes, Angelika Shafer, Penn Valley Friends Meeting

Worship - 10 a.m.

MORNING BIBLE STUDY with Deborah Dakin

IYM(C) business and committee meetings. Afternoon workshops will include **Quaker history with Peter Blood, Quaker organizations and storytelling.**

Collections and business meeting sessions will be shared via Zoom, thanks to the IYMC Technology Committee.

Enjoy worship and in-person and online conversations with F/friends in breakout rooms for interest groups and informal chats.

PRESENTERS/DISCUSSION LEADERS

Peter Clay, a member of the Des Moines Valley Friends monthly Meeting, will lead a query discussion with long-time IYMC members and newer active members/ attenders of IYMC monthly meetings.

Peter Blood began life in Oskaloosa and was deeply involved in nonviolent resistance to the Vietnam War. He and his wife Annie Patterson worked with Pete Seeger to create the songbooks *Rise Up Singing* and *Rise Again* as ways to build community and a better world. He is currently creating an online library (Inwardlight.org) to help people learn how revolutionary Quakerism is—from its beginnings to the present day.

J.J. Kapur is an AmeriCorps fellow serving with CultureALL, a Des Moines-based non-profit dedicated to valuing the cultures of our community.

John Zimmerman is director of Scattergood Friends School and Farm. He works with students and staff to identify how best to merge the wisdom gained from our first century of Scattergood Friends School with the needs and expectations of today's students and the generations yet to come. He has also an extensive career in community and professional theater.

Angelika Shafer, originally from Germany, has been a member of Northern Yearly Meeting and now clerks Penn Valley Meeting in Kansas City. She is a caregiver and activist. She and her husband Jon live in Kansas City.