



Newcomers News

Published by the Newcomers Club of Grand Traverse
(Antrim - Benzie - Grand Traverse - Kalkaska - Leelanau)

**MARCH
2008**

DATES TO REMEMBER

PROGRAMS

*March 25,
April 22*

BOARD MEETING

March 17

BOOK CLUB

March 4, April 1

BRIDGE

Various, see p. 6

DINNER OUT

March 30

EUCHRE

Various, see p. 6

FILM GROUP

March 13

MEN'S BOOK CLUB

March 24

MEN'S BREAKFAST

March 12

OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH

March 12

POKER

March 4, April 1

RACQUETBALL-Men 60+

Thursdays

QUILTING

March 11

SNOWSHOE & X-CTRY SKI

March 1, 15

SOLOS

March 30

TABLE TENNIS

Wednesdays

Please join us for the next program:

**Tuesday, March 25, 2008, 7:00 PM
Traverse City Library - Woodmere St.**



The Conservancy protects significant natural, scenic and farm lands in Grand Traverse, Benzie, Antrim, Kalkaska and Manistee counties. Founded in 1991, it has protected over 25,000 acres; has 28 nature preserves and protected over 62 miles of lake, stream and river shoreline. This tremendous accomplishment has been brought about by team work of many individuals, units of government and organizations.

Megan Olds, Director of Development for the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, will describe how all this work gets done. Prior to joining the Conservancy, Megan was the Director of Regional Planning at the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments.

**Please feel free to bring guests!!
As always, the public is invited to our programs.**

Refreshments are available and socializing starts at 7 PM.
The program begins at 7:30. We'll see you there!

**Contact Jim Neibauer for more information:
267-9553, jeneibauer2@charter.net**

**Please visit
gtnewcomers.org**

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**Many thanks to
Judy Albert for
creating and constantly
updating the site.**

NEWCOMERS CLUB MISSION STATEMENT

The Newcomers Club of Grand Traverse is a social and civic organization whose purpose is to extend a welcoming hand to people living in the Grand Traverse area. The Newcomers Club also provides opportunities to meet and socialize with other re-located people sharing common interests.

Co-Presidents

Tom Custance 935-4805
patticustance@yahoo.com
Brad Spencer 946-3365
spencercs@charter.net

Co-Vice Presidents

Bud Dockter 932-2394
dockter@charter.net
Jim Neibauer 267-9553
jeneibauer2@charter.net

Secretary

JoAnne Gerben
jmgerb98@aol.com

Treasurer

Marlowe Bonner 932-0943
mbmarbon@aol.com

Activity Groups

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susannebonner@aol.com

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jowen9619@charter.net

City Hostess

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hsfinch@charter.net

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wallacerg1@yahoo.com

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kspencerc@charter.net

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mjalbert@chartermi.net

Website

Judy Albert 941-4143
mjalbert@chartermi.net

PRESIDENTS' NOTE

MARCH 2008



Tom Custance and
Brad Spencer

Beware the Nominating Committee!

The slithy toves and frumious bandersnatch are on the prowl and may be looking for you!

It could be a call in the night...a knock on the door...or just an innocent looking email.

It's that time of year in Newcomers when old tired Board members just fade away and bushy-tailed bright-eyed newcomers are pulled out of their home-building daze or re-settlement angst to become the new Thinkers and Doers of Newcomers. Yes, it's all about "Change" and "We Can Do It."

We just need a Few Good Men and Women who can still remember where they came from, what they did, and how they can share their talents.

According to our bylaws, Board Members may remain on the Board in one position no more than three years.

Board openings for next year (July '08 - June '09) include the following:

- President/s**
- Vice-President/s**
- Executive Assistant**
- Newsletter Editor/Trainee (computer literate)**
- Public Relations**
- Helping Hands**

Members interested in becoming leaders in Newcomers are invited to volunteer for any of these positions...or some sneaky person might "volunteer" someone who they think would make a good Board activist. Job descriptions are available on a moment's notice.

Board members meet monthly (third Monday of month) from 10-11 in the lower level of Horizon Books. Coffee and cookies are served and everyone has a good time at this social/business meeting. Past Presidents serve automatically on the Board each year, so experienced leaders are available for smooth transitioning.

Serving on the Board is a great way for members to get to know other Newcomers and to contribute to an exciting and active organization.

This might be YOUR chance to bring NEW MEANING to the word "NEWCOMERS." Resumes not required if you are trainable.

Please call or write anyone on the Nominating Committee to volunteer or offer suggestions: Brad or Karen Spencer, 946-3365; Tom Custance, 935-4805, or Bud Dockter, 932-2394.

PLEASE HELP RECRUIT MEMBERS!

KNOW SOMEONE WHO HAS
JUST MOVED TO THE AREA?

Contact Sharon Finch, City Hostess,
with their names and she will do the rest.
947-8403, hsfinch@charter.net

NEW MEMBER CORNER

**Fred and Barb Woodruff
(East Lansing)
Judith Voorheis (Lansing)**



Surprise: It's Winter!

The weather forecasters didn't let us know that beginning last month we were going to have a real winter, unlike the last few years of warm days when all the snow melted and the days were more like March than winter. I bet that everyone was surprised with zero° (and below) overnight temperatures. The days haven't been much better either. And the snowfall has been more lately than I have been accustomed to. I have had the snow thrower out and working almost every day recently. I was out early this morning and if the forecast is accurate, I'll have it out again this weekend.

In a way, all the snow is good, at least the snow that wasn't "lake effect" snow. Maybe that snow will increase the lake levels and herald a change in the lowering lake levels that we've seen in the last few years. Most of us would welcome that change. Some people will lose a lot of water front property if that happens, but most of them would be glad to see the lake levels rise.

The winter-like weather has made the people who don't like it happy that they have plans to go south for varying periods of time. The people who puzzle me are those who don't plan on going south to the sun belt but west to the skiing areas or east to the New England skiing areas.

I'm getting too long in the tooth to look for more challenging slopes. A few people we know are even headed to Europe to ski the Alps or some other, older steeper areas. To all these people I say, "Be careful and come home as well as when you left." We have been to the sun belt many times and found that the continental States are often cold, maybe not as cold as up here, but cold enough that we've had to pile on all the clothing that we brought with us. Very disappointing!

For many years we went even further south to the Caribbean. The islands are beautiful and were warm and sunny. The way the people lived in almost all of the islands was shocking to us. Many of them had no indoor plumbing or even out-houses. The sewer systems consisted of a ditch dug down the middle of the street. We couldn't imagine living that way. An OSHA group would have had a field day with the lack of safety procedures on construction and hotel guest areas. Not that we complained about it. Safety costs money and the prices were cheap because of that and other things. All of the people that we met and had dealings with were polite and did not seem to resent us. If the southern states are not warm enough for you, we recommend the islands

For the rest of us, they have even named a disorder for people up here. Are you sad? Or do you have SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder)? It is caused by the lack of sunshine. I can't think of a better area to get SAD than up here in the winter. There are worse areas in the State of Michigan but this one is probably dark enough. I don't think there is a cure for it but they treat it with special lights that simulate sunshine. Maybe a trip to a tanning parlor would help. We've only known one person with the affliction but I suspect that her personality had something to do with it. Anyway, if you find yourself or your spouse snapping at people during the dark days of this season, perhaps a trip to a doctor or someplace where the proper type of lamp is sold might be in order. Or, join one of the Newcomer activities. That will brighten your day!

Bob Luoma
Staff Reporter
rluoma@charter.net
932-9249

2007-2008 Membership Addendum #2

Addendum #2 is inserted in this newsletter. The directories are being distributed at the general monthly meetings. If you need yours mailed, please contact Ron Wallace, wallacerg1@yahoo.com, 231-222-0060.

'Helping Hands' Request

The Newcomers Club 'Helping Hands' Coordinator attempts to acknowledge happy and sad times in our members' lives. Please notify Marlene Steider at 922-2183 or marlenesteider@msn.com if you know of any of these circumstances.

ACTIVITY GROUPS

TABLE TENNIS

Wednesdays: 2:00 - 4:00 PM

NEW MEMBERS INVITED Peterson Takes Over As Chair

Despite some Snow Bird attrition, ping-pong devotees have been meeting every Wednesday for the last 12 weeks at the **Hayden Table Tennis Training Center** at Bates Road just east of the Traverse Resort on M-72.

Each participant works each week to improve his or her game and to have a good time. Members have especially enjoyed learning the intricacies of the tricky "doubles" game.

Members Bud Dockter and Joe Coffman competed in an official Center Tournament on February 16.

Ping-Pong Champ Pete Peterson takes over as the new Chair of the group replacing the old tired Spencer guy who has lost the use of one wing due to a skiing accident which he sincerely regrets. All information requests should go to Pete now at 946-9512.

The Newcomers Ping-Pong Athletic group encourages new Newcomers to join the ping-pong fun each Wednesday. This is a joint Women's and Men's equal opportunity sporting event. Join the fun!

The 10-week league fee is \$35 (very reasonable). Daily passes at \$7 per person.

SNOWSHOE & X-CTRY SKI

Mark your calendars on the following dates. Contact Joe Harris at grizharris@charter.net or 223-9844 to be placed on the contact list, if you are not now on it and wish to be. Being on the list is not required to participate, but any short term updates will be facilitated between newsletters. Please call Joe to let him know you are planning to come on a given date, so he knows who to expect.

The locations selected for these winter sports are suitable for both cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The skiers and the snowshoers meet at the same site, but often use different trails and then go to lunch together.

Please note time change to 11:00.

Saturday, March 1, 11:00 AM at Lake Ann Pathway

Take US #31 about 5 miles west of Interlochen, turn north (right) on Reynolds Rd. (right after BP gas station) go approximately 4 miles, you will come to the trail head parking lot on the right hand side of the road.

Saturday, March 15, 2008 11AM at Muncie Lake Pathway

Follow Supply Rd. south of TC to Rennie Lake Rd.; follow Rennie until it T's, turn left and the trail-head parking lot is on the left about a mile.

RACQUETBALL - MEN 60+

Thursdays, 11:00 AM

The **Grand Traverse Athletic Club** on Park Drive near South Airport Rd. in Traverse City has four racquetball courts. Some folks are having schedule conflicts so we have changed the day from Tuesdays to Thursdays. So far no serious casualties, just sore muscles. Drop-in rate to play is \$10 and loaner equipment is available.

If you are a current or former racquetball player or would like to learn how to play racquetball contact George Kobernus at george@kobernus.com. More on the sport of racquetball at <http://www.usra.org/>.

FILM GROUP

Thursday, March 13

Specifics as to exact time, film and location will be emailed or telephoned to the group one week prior to meeting. Check the Newcomers website for the most current information. To join this group please contact Judy Pelto at jpelto1@charter.net or call 231-668-6490.

Because we are unable to get film schedules in advance of the publication of the newsletter, the specific time, film and location will be announced by email to those individuals who have signed up for this group. Solos are welcome. We'll go out after for libations and discussion.

OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH

Wednesday, March 12, 1:00 PM

Join us at **Lobdell's**, 715 E. Front St., in the Haggerty Center (next to the Senior Center). Due to the popularity of NMC's teaching restaurant, the cut-off date for reservations is Monday, March 10. Please contact Constance Kilbride, 941-3871, constancek@firstassetfinancial.com.

SOLOS

Sunday, March 30, 10:30

The Solos will once again enjoy the great Sunday brunch at the **Bluebird Restaurant and Bar** in Leland. Join us at 10:30 AM on March 30. Just call Judy, 922-9619, or Joanne, 922-9672 or email jdavis4792@aol.com to reserve a place at the table. See you there to celebrate the coming of spring!

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Wednesday, March 12, 9:00 AM

This group meets at the **Omelette Shoppe next to the Wild Birds Unlimited store in Campus Plaza** every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 9:00 AM. We meet all year around and always meet regardless of the weather. Bring all the testosterone you can muster. Contact George Kobernus 933-9321 or george@kobernus.com.

BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, March 4, 10:00 AM

The group meets in the lower level of **Horizon Books**.

A Spot of Bother by Mark Haddon is the selection.

"At sixty-one, George Hall is settling down to a comfortable retirement. When his tempestuous daughter, Katie, announces that she is getting married to the deeply inappropriate Ray, the Hall family is thrown into a tizzy. Unnoticed in the uproar, George discovers a sinister lesion on his hip and quietly begins to lose his mind. As parents and children fall apart and come together, Haddon paints a disturbing yet amusing portrait of a dignified man trying to go insane politely." (book jacket summary)

The April 1 selection is *Hillary Clinton: Living History*. Contact Letha Cairns, gcairns@chartermi.net.

QUILTING

Tuesday, March 11, 1:00 PM

We will be meeting March 11th at 1PM at the home of **Miki Connell, 8221 Maple Leaf Dr, Traverse City, 49684**. We will be exploring different methods to make half square triangles. This is a great opportunity to use up lots of those left over pieces of fabric, So bring your scrap box or bag, and we will swap and share. Also, bring a rotary cutter, scissors and a ruler.

This should be a fun learning experience for us, as Miki has a sewing room in her new home. Please call or e-mail Miki if you plan to attend. Mikiconnel@aol.com, or 231-929-1049.

GARDENING GROUP

Being new to this beautiful area, so many of us have different "gardening joys" waiting for us this spring. Some may have bare new yards, waiting for your personal creation. Others may have inherited someone else's garden that needs some personal changes. As we all know, a garden is never done, it is always evolving, asking us to thin it out or add more.

Are there any members that would be interested in a gardening group e-mail list? We could let others know if we have extra plants that have multiplied, or someone may be looking for a particular plant.

Questions and conversation can be shared. If a garden tour or lecture sounds interesting, it could be suggested to the group and those who would be interested could make the plans to get together by the e-mail group list.

If you are interested in being part of this group, or have any suggestions, please let me know. Susanne Bonner susannebonner@aol.com, 932-0943



New!

ACTIVITY GROUPS, cont.

CARDS

BRIDGE

TEAM BRIDGE:

First Friday of each month (except June-Aug.), 7:00 PM at **Cedar Creek Commons**. Contact Georgia Stoeber, 938-5846.

WOMEN'S BRIDGE:

2nd and 4th Thursday of each month

2nd Thursday meets at **Scott's Harbor Grille** at 11:30 PM, call Nancy Ravas, 932 1747

4th Thursday meets at **310 Restaurant**, call Judy Owen, 922-9619

MIXED PARTY BRIDGE

3rd Friday, 7:00 P.M. Different hosts each month.

All skill levels welcome. Contact Rick and Kathy Bodette 271-7524

EUCHRE

Euchre groups meet once a month, September through May. Presently we have four Couple's Euchre Groups meeting at each others' homes. **(See the December 2007 issue for details of these two activities.)**

INDIVIDUAL'S EUCHRE GROUP IS PROPOSED -

NEED LEADER: Are you an individual who wants to play euchre, but find it difficult to persuade your spouse or friend to commit to a Couple's group?

If someone will offer to be LEADER of this new proposed Individual 's Euchre Group or if anyone is interested in subbing in the other groups, please call **Karen or Mike Coquillard at 932-9883.**

DINNER OUT

Sunday, March 30, 5:00 PM

Join us at **G's Pizzeria and Deli**, 1500 US31 N, East Bay Township, between 3 and 4 Mile Rd., next to the State Park.

Please reserve by Sunday, March 23. Later reservations are usually not turned away, but the restaurant needs an approximate number. Contact Constance Kilbride, constancek@firstassetfinancial.com, 941-3871.

MEN'S BOOK CLUB

Monday, March 24, 10:00 AM

The Men's Book Club will meet on Monday March 24th at 10:00 Am in the lower level of the **Horizon Book Store**. Tom Wells will lead the discussion on the book "Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of the World Order" by Samuel Huntington. The Harvard political scientist presents a powerful thesis to explain what has happened in the World since the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War.

The read for April will be "Roosevelt's Secret War" by Joseph Perico. This discussion will be led by Jim Neibauer.

POKER

Tuesday, March 4, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

The poker group meets the 1st Tuesday of the month. The meetings are held at the members homes. The March meeting is scheduled to be at **Bud Dockter's** home. Contact him with questions or for directions., 932-2394, dockter@charter.net. All current members, please contact Bud to let him know of your attendance.

The poker group is a low stakes game, meant to be fun and entertaining. We eat snacks and drink liquids of your choice. Please contact Mike Huffman wdcspike@yahoo.com if you would like to join the group. Next month's meeting is April 1st.

VOLUNTEER AT THE STATE

Join other Newcomer members as we help out at a local landmark. We are working one Mon. afternoon shift a month, 12:30-4:30. When this fills up, we would like to do the next shift too, 4:30 -7:30. You get to see the movie for free and can have free popcorn and soda. Contact Jody Bennett, 932-9249 or bennettjj@charter.net



TRAVERSE CITY

**WANTED: VOLUNTEERS
TO VOLUNTEER**
Share your experiences with us!

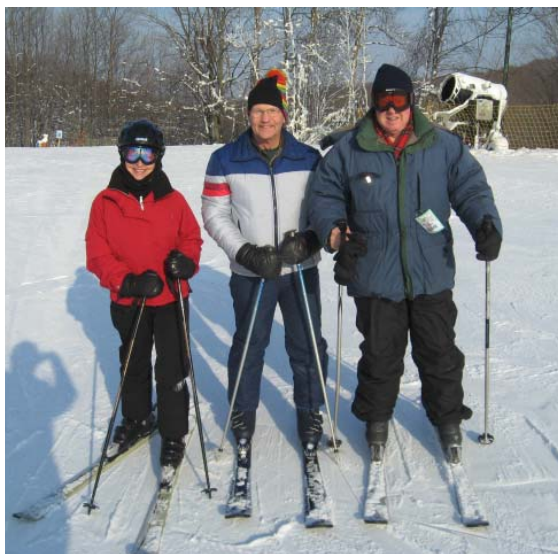
We are looking for three or four Newcomer members who currently volunteer for a non-profit organization to speak of their experiences during our upcoming April 22 program. Due to the success of a similar volunteer awareness program last year, we plan to offer one again. New speakers preferred.

Please call Bud Dockter (932-2394) or Brad Spencer (946-3365) if you would be willing to participate.

THANK YOU!!!

I appreciate all the good wishes, calls, emails and cards from sympathetic Newcomers relating to my unfortunate ski accident. Thank you all! Things seem to be on the mend for which I am grateful. So far, however, there has been a dearth of candy and pies. Oh well.

Sincerely, Brad Spencer



Editor's note: Above, left to right, you see Nancy Dockter, Jim Neibauer, and our President Brad Spencer at Crystal Mtn. shortly before the mishap that resulted in the reason for the 'thank you' note above. Brad broke his arm in a fall. There is no truth to the rumor that either of the other two took him out.

Update from Brad: Each day means a little less ache and a little more movement, and that suits me fine. Things seem to be going okay.

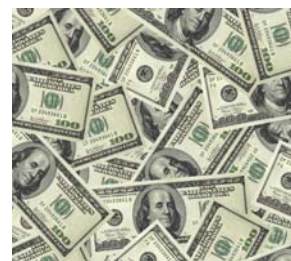
THE WELCOME WAGON



From Reminisce Magazine: Mrs. Theresa Pike is said to have received a new Ford every year from Universal Motor Company for her duties in Bismarck, North Dakota. If that's the case, the photo is either form 1948, 1949, or 1950, depending when this 1949 Ford Custom was actually delivered to Mrs. Pike. She always wore a hat and welcomed new babies to a family with

And now, a message about our sponsors:

Please patronize them! See the list on the back cover of this newsletter. Be sure to tell them we appreciate their efforts in helping newcomers settle into their new lives in the Grand Traverse area.



PLEASE !!!
Send news, articles,
photos, letters,
or ads to the
newsletter editor,
bennettjj@charter.net

or

932-9249

**The deadline for the April
2008
newsletter is March 15**

Patronize our sponsors

AAA of Michigan

940 N. US 31N, TC
Debra Kurtzal
947-8045, ext. 14008

Arbonne Products

Angel Craker, Regional V.P.
649-2347

Associates in Family Dentistry

Joseph M. Stayman, D.D.S.
4020 W. Royal Dr., TC
946-9644

R. W. Baird & Co. Investments

1001 Bay St., TC, 933-6050

Banfield Pet Hospital

2544 Crossing Circle (next to
Pet Smart), TC 922-9844

BATA- Public Transportation

3233 Cass Rd., TC 941-2324

Bellisimo Travel Services

Priscilla, 946-4313, TC
13685 SW Bayshore, Ste. 114

Benjamin Franklin —The

Punctual Plumber

929-9999

Bob's Furnace Svs.

2282 Cass Rd., TC 941-4064

The Copy Shop - Printers

713 E. 8th St. 947-2080

The Dance Center

225 E. 14th St. TC 947-6820

Dennis, Gartland & Niergerth Business and Financial Advisors

415 Munson Ave
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-946-1722 www.dgncpa.com

Dennos Museum Center

1701 E. Front St., TC
995-1055

Eastland Apothecary Shoppe

1217 E. Front St., TC
947-9825

Ecowater Systems of TC

1-800-599-0311 or
ecowater.com

Edward Jones Investments

Briant Sikorski, 947-3032
12930 So. West Bay Shore, TC

Epiphany Hair Salon

518 E Front St., TC 933-8010
3779 M-72, Acme, 933-8010

EXCEL Rehabilitation Services

3 locations: 2 in Traverse City,
1 in Suttons Bay
929-0303

Gaudette & Co CPA's

1107 East 8th St., TC
946-8930

Goodyear Auto Service Center

436 W. Front St., TC
922-2600

G.T. Ophthalmology Clinic, PC

929 Business Park Dr., TC
947-6246

G.T. Pavilions

1000 Pavilion Cr., TC
932-3000

Grand Traverse Bay YMCA

3000 Racquet Ball Dr., TC
933-9622

Grand Traverse Resort & Spa

231-534-6750, 1-888-437-2772

Interlochen Center for the Arts

4000 S. M-137 Hwy.,
Interlochen, MI
231-276-7200

Juice Plus

Nancy Kroupa, 946-7877 or
944-4082, www.kroupa.com

Kids Creek Children's Clinic

5024 North Royal, TC
935-0555

Legacy Financial Svcs.

Kelly Rowe 933-0631
13919 S.W. Bay Shore Dr., TC

Mary Kay Cosmetics

Pat Westbrook 929-1830

Master Craft Cabinets/Grawn

276-0292
www.mccwoodworking.com

Music House Museum

U.S. 31 North, Acme
938-9300

Oakwood Veterinary Hospital

924 Hastings, TC 941-7241

Oleson's Food Stores

New store: Hammond Rd./3 Mi.
3850 N. Long Lake Rd.
947-6510

Old Town Playhouse

148 E. Eighth St.
947-2210, ext. 3

Omelette Shoppe

1209 E. Front St., TC
124 Cass St., TC

Oryana Nat. Foods Coop Mkt.

260 East Tenth, TC

Pizza Hut

3030 US 31 South, TC
947-2077

Reynolds-Jonkhoff

Funeral Home

305 6th St., TC 947-6347

Schelde's Restaurants

Traverse City: Schelde's Grille,
Travino, Freshwater Lodge

Sheren Plumbing and Heating

Energy Services, Design, Build
943-7916

State Farm Insurance

Mark Newhouse
933-5400

Stone Mountain Carpets

Charlie Stiehl
800-786-6333

Traverse City Record Eagle

Newspaper

946-2000

Traverse Magazine

148 E. Front St., TC
941-8174

TC Optimist Club

Bill Bassett, 267-5102
Kathy Olney, 946-3600



The Newcomers Club of Grand Traverse
C/O Karen Spencer - Membership
8165 S. Bingham Ridge Dr.
Traverse City, MI 49684
kspencertc@charter.net

Quick Tip! If you change your email address please notify us at kspencertc@charter.net.
Email is the best way to get information to members between publications of the Newcomer News.