

GROVE GAZETTE

Historic Locust Grove

561 Blankenbaker Lane

Louisville, KY 40207

(502) 897-9845

www.locustgrove.org



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Lynn Renau Spirit Award Winner

Historian and author.
Former social worker
and museum curator.
Enthusiastic docent and
researcher extraordinaire.
Those are but a few of the
many adjectives that describe
this quarter's Spirit Award
winner, **Lynn Renau**.

"Lynn is passionate about
local history and research and
she brings that knowledge
and energy to Locust Grove,"
says Program Director **Mary
Beth Williams**.

"Our visitors benefit from
Lynn's talents in many ways
— from the specialized tours
she leads to the workshops
and lectures she gives. And
she's always willing to fill in

as a docent in a pinch, saving us
many times."

Lynn began volunteering in
the early 1960s when Locust
Grove opened to the public, and
returned in 2008. She mainly
works as a docent and has done a
great deal of research on Locust
Grove and the Croghan family.

"Lynn was the one who
unearthed the original store
records at the Filson Historical
Society showing that William
Croghan purchased seven and
one-half pounds of verdigris in
the fall of 1806 to decorate his
house," says HLG Executive
Director **Carol Ely**.

"Lynn has the research skills and
background understanding of
this area to help us advance our



interpretation in many ways,"
Carol adds.

Lynn also helps out at numerous
special events — "and I always
support Locust Grove's Used
Book Sales by purchasing
bagsful of books," she laughs.

She adds that her involvement
with Locust Grove delights her
with infinite opportunities to
research and explore the 19th
century world from an elegant,
still-standing historic house.

Yearly Events Mark Your Calendars!

First Wednesday Lecture Series
1:00 p.m. — the first Wednesday of
the month (except January and May).

Two Big Used Book Sales!
Many book bargains abound
during these 2012 sales on
March 2-4 and August 24-26.

18th Century Thunder
Our Revolutionary War
Encampment held the Saturday
and Sunday of "Thunder
Weekend" each April.

Gardeners' Fair & Auction
Friday, Saturday, Sunday — held
on the second weekend in May

Mothers' Day Brunch
Sunday during the Gardeners'
Fair. *Reservations required.*

Two Antiques Markets
Held on the last Sundays in June
and in September.

18th Century Market Fair
Held Saturday and Sunday on the
last weekend in October.

A Candlelight Christmas
Costumed interpreters in the
house and out-buildings on Friday
and Saturday in early December.

From the Director's Desk

Carol Ely, Ph.D., *Executive Director*

More than 220 years ago, William Croghan set out to assemble the land for his country house. As a surveyor, he was familiar with all the Kentucky land for miles around.

He chose a 387-acre parcel six miles upriver from the town of Louisville, high on a ridge above the Ohio River. This land was part of the "Peachy Grant" originally granted by Virginia Governor Thomas Jefferson and sold to Hancock Lee. Croghan shared Peachy's grant with his friends and associates Richard Taylor (who built Springfields) and Richard Terrell.

Croghan soon added to his landholdings by purchasing an adjoining 104.5 acres from Ambrose and James Madison (yes, *that* James Madison, the fourth U.S. President). However, Madison did not give him the deed confirming the sale and ignored several polite requests to do so. This finally forced Croghan to go to court to obtain the appropriate paperwork. (See documents in the "Voices from the Past" section on p. 2.)

A later purchase from Richard Taylor added another 202 acres to Locust Grove, including the site of a mill on a fork of Beargrass Creek.

Recently, Historic Locust Grove and Louisville Metro Parks joined to commission a modern survey of the bounds of both Locust Grove's current 55 acres and of Croghan's original 693.5-acre property. Surveyor **Joel Latto**, assisted by the research of **Sam Thomas** and **Gwynne Potts**, worked with old deeds and plat maps along with modern aerial photos and GPS measurements to create a four-dimensional portrait showing this land through time.

There were some surprises. It turns out that the subdivision roads of the proposed "Fort Stanwix" subdivision were never removed as public rights-of-way. Imagine driving right down the ravine and through the Locust Grove woods! And it seems that very little of the strip of land across Blankenbaker Lane that was believed to be part of Locust Grove actually is. And somewhere underneath Poplar Hill Road lurks the remains of a rather large Croghan-era barn.

But most interesting for us was seeing why William Croghan was so concerned about getting title to the Madison land. It was obvious when we saw the boundary lines on the map and learned exactly where on the 693.5 acres that Madison's property was.

Croghan had built his house just 10 feet from the boundary line. His original purchase ended just past the southwest corner of Locust Grove. Today, that line runs from the driveway entrance off Blankenbaker Lane past the house, the stone wall, and cuts right through our Visitors' Center.

If you are in the Audubon Room, you are in the Peachy grant. But if you go to the children's section of the museum store, you are in Madison territory. Standing in the main lobby entrance door, you are exactly on the border. Croghan's likely road to the Ohio River probably passed through this strip of land, which includes modern Blankenbaker Lane.

The survey map will be unveiled at the Annual Meeting of Historic Locust Grove on November 17th, and will be displayed on site for a period of time after that for all to see. Is your house on land that once belonged to William Croghan? Is it on James Madison's land?

Carol Ely



This early map shows Locust Grove as "Maj. Croghan's Seat" — his country house. Note also his brother-in-law Col. Anderson's Seat, called Soldier's Retreat. It's located on what is now Seaton Springs Road at South Hurstbourne Parkway.

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561 Blankenbaker Lane
Louisville, KY 40207
(502) 897-9845
(502) 896-2433
www.locustgrove.org

The mission of Historic Locust Grove, Inc. is to preserve and interpret the 55-acre site, with its circa 1790 house and out-buildings, the collection, and the gardens, as an example of early 19th century frontier America.

It is also our mission to share the stories of the many people who contributed to the history of Locust Grove, emphasizing the life of General George Rogers Clark, Revolutionary War hero and founder of the city of Louisville.

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Grove Gazette

Carol Ely, Ph.D., Executive Director
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Photography by: Gary Bourne, Kathy Cummings, Carol Ely, Jennifer Jansen, Jeannie Litterst Vezeau, Mary Beth Williams

Primary Source Documents About Historic Locust Grove

Voices From The Past

As discussed in the Director's note on the first page, William Croghan had difficulties with his purchase of land from the Madison family. In the first letter, he has sent his brother-in-law, Dennis

Fitzhugh, to Virginia bearing a court order from Jefferson County ordering the deed to be turned over to him. In the second letter, a year later, he is still waiting for the paperwork, which did finally arrive.



James Madison held up the process for several years before finally sending the deeds to Locust Grove property purchased by William Croghan.

William Croghan to James Madison (original in Library of Congress)

Jefferson County Kentucky April 7th, 1802

Sir

In consequence of the Death of your Brother Ambrose, Colonel Richard Taylor and myself were under the necessity of bringing Suits in Chancery against you & Nelly Madison for Lands we bought from your Brother belonging to you & he, when he was in this Country in March 1792 he sold us those lands, - I gave him my Bond for the payment of 104 1/2 Acres of the land... which Bond he lost... about the time the Bond was due... applied to me & Received the payment £94.

The bearer Mr. Dennis Fitzhugh will wait on you with the Decrees and take Charge of the Deeds.

W. Croghan

William Croghan to James Madison (original in Library of Congress)

Near Louisville Kentucky May 22nd, 1803

Sir

Upward of a year ago I wrote you... I enclosed two Decrees of the Court of Quarter Sessions of Jefferson County... for land purchased by Richard Taylor & myself... in March 1792... and flattered Myself that you & your neice [sic] would have Made me the Deed eer Now, as you Informed Mr. Fitzhugh... permit me to Request the favour of your having it Shortly done & Send to me...

W. Croghan

Summer Camps Make History Fun



Woodworking, knitting, playing 19th century games of skill, making dreamcatchers. These are only a few of the many activities that delighted and fascinated kids from ages six to 12 during Locust Grove's summer camps. This year's camps included the ever-popular Woodworking, Pioneer, and Craft camps. Check Locust Grove's website in the spring to see which camps will be offered

in 2012. Sign-up will begin March 1st. Locust Grove's summer camps are a great way to bring history to life.





HLG's National Advisory Council

These are the first members of the Locust Grove National Advisory Council. The Council is limited to 15 people who may serve unlimited five-year terms. The Council offers regional and national research information and professional guidance to the Board of Directors and provides the site with national representation in other organizations.

Frances Alden has served Locust Grove for decades as Director and Emeritus, focusing her energies on the care and conservation of the museum's fine arts collection. An experienced traveler and museum supporter, Frannie most recently chaired the Locust Grove Acquisitions Committee, overseeing the purchases of the museum's collection.

David L. Armstrong is a former Kentucky Attorney General, Jefferson County Judge-Executive, and Louisville Mayor. As judge-executive, Dave championed preservation through the restoration of Riverside and the careful oversight of Locust Grove; and as mayor, led efforts to revitalize Louisville's "new" downtown, East Main Street. He currently is the chair of Kentucky's Public Service Commission.

Edith Wharton Stenhouse Bingham first saw Locust Grove during the 1960s restoration when she visited the project with her future husband. Edie has served on the board and lived at the heart of the Kentucky preservation movement since her arrival in the Commonwealth. She was instrumental in the creation of the University of Kentucky Historic Preservation Masters Program, and has received an Honor Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Clark scholar and archaeologist, **Dr. Kenneth C. Carstens** joined the staff of Murray State University in 1978 and shortly thereafter was awarded a Ph.D from Washington University in St. Louis. He has published four books centered upon George Rogers Clark's Revolutionary War activities in Illinois and at Fort Jefferson, and continues his association with Murray State as Professor Emeritus.

Peyton C. "Bud" Clark Jr. is a Missouri native who has spent most of his life in Dearborn, Mich., as an automobile executive. A fifth-generation descendant of William Clark, Bud spent three years re-enacting his ancestor's exploits throughout the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Celebration. Bud and his brother, John, have been associated with Locust Grove for more than 20 years as benefactors and enthusiastic supporters.

Robert I. "Ric" Cusick, neighbor and former Locust Grove Regent, graduated from the University of Louisville where he was selected editor-in-chief of the university's law journal. A former Navy JAG officer and Naval Reserve officer, Ric retired from the law firm of Wyatt, Tarrant and Combs in 2006 after a 33-year career to accept an appointment as Director of the United States Office of Government Ethics.

Louisville native and radiologist, **Dr. R. Ted Steinbock**, is a graduate of Harvard University and serious book collector. He has served on the boards of the Speed Art Museum, the Library Foundation, J. G. Brown Foundation, the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, and The Filson Historical Society, where he served as president of the organization.

Arriving at Locust Grove in 1962 to become the museum's caretaker and primary researcher, **Dr. Samuel W. Thomas** remained at the site through 1979. He collected and edited *The Croghan Family Letters* and *The George Rogers Clark Papers* and has written 19 books, co-authoring *George Rogers Clark & Locust Grove*. Additionally, Sam has been instrumental in restoring the Jefferson County Courthouse, The Filson Historical Society's headquarters, Blackacre's Farmhouse and the William Christian log house.

Did You Know?

George Croghan, the second son of William and Lucy Croghan, chose a military career and followed in the footsteps of his father and his uncle, George Rogers Clark.

After his service at the Battle of Tippecanoe, then only 21 years old, he was entrusted with the defense of Fort Stephenson on the Sandusky River in Ohio. His risky and brilliant defense of the Fort in 1813 led to his promotion to the rank of Colonel. He was a hero in Ohio, and eventually would be buried there at the site of his most important victory.

In 1835, Congress honored Croghan with a medal. We had assumed that this was the Congressional Medal

of Honor, but now we realize it was a rarer accolade — the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest award given in the United States.



George Washington was the first recipient.

Originally it was awarded to military heroes and civilians. But since the establishment of the Congressional Medal of Honor during the Civil War, the Gold Medal has become a civilian award only.

Other honorees include John Paul Jones, Andrew Jackson, and, more recently, Thomas Edison, Rosa Parks, Bob Hope, and Irving Berlin.

But Croghan, who received his medal in 1835, was the **only** honoree in nearly three decades between 1818 and 1846.

Why, 22 years after his victory at Fort Stephenson, was he the very last of the heroes of the War of 1812 to be noticed in this way? More research into the circumstances of the award is needed.

And now you know.

2011 FIRST WEDNESDAY LECTURE SERIES

Our lecture series this year offers a variety of interesting speakers and unusual topics that relate to the lives of the Croghans, Clark, and the region. Lectures are held on the first Wednesday of each month, except for January and May. Desserts and beverages are served at 1:00 p.m., with the lecture immediately following. Admission is \$5, or \$3 for Friends of Locust Grove.

LOUISVILLE DULCIMER SOCIETY HOLIDAY CONCERT

Wednesday, December 7, 1:00 p.m.

Every year, Louisville Dulcimer Society members delight our



audience with joyous traditional holiday music played on the Appalachian mountain dulcimer — Kentucky's official state instrument — along with other folk instruments such as the hammered dulcimer, the fiddle, the banjo, and even a washtub.

It's a great way to kick off the holiday season

and conclude another successful year of afternoon lectures. Come early to enjoy the delicious treats provided by Locust Grove's Lecture Bakers — and to find some good seats! There's usually an overflow crowd for this delightful event. Happy holidays!

EMILIE STRONG SMITH CHAMBER CONCERTS

This is a rare opportunity to enjoy music much as the Croghans and Clarks would have in the early 1800s. Refreshments are served at 5:00 p.m. The concerts are held in the Great Parlor in the historic house at 5:30 p.m. Please call (502) 897-9845 for reservations and further information.

SUCH SWEETE MELODIE

Sunday, November 20, 5:00 p.m.

Songs by Dowland, Monteverdi, and others, featuring a soprano, violone, baroque guitar, lute, and theorbo.

Ensemble Musical Offering:

THE MIDWEST BANDE FOR EARLY MUSIC

Sunday, December 11, 5:00 p.m.

A concert of music by Bach and Verdi to celebrate the season.

(See complete descriptions of the 2011-2012 season on Page 6.)

AN AMERICAN HERITAGE THANKSGIVING

Presented by *The Old School of Cookery*

Saturday, November 12,
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Join Chef Mark Williams, Slow Food USA Southern regional governor, for a fun, interactive cooking and tasting event. Chef Mark and attendees will explore the roots and customs of the traditional American Thanksgiving meal, with samples of historic and heirloom recipes to taste.

Joining him will be Kentucky Bourbon Red turkey farmer **Kathy Wheeler**, who will discuss the fall harvest and the raising of heirloom food.

The menu will include oyster stew, Buckeye chicken pate, country ham fritter, slow-roasted Kentucky Bourbon Red turkey, cornbread stuffing, "Three Sister Saute" (corn, beans, pumpkin), and cushaw pie. Cost: \$25 per person for Friends of Locust Grove and Slow Food members; \$30 for all others. *Class size is limited.* For reservations, please call (502) 897-9845.



Some of Kathy Wheeler's Bourbon Red turkeys on her Star Farm in Hardyville, Ky.

HOLIDAY CRAFT SAMPLER

Friday, November 25 — The day after Thanksgiving!

Demonstrations — Noon – 4:00 p.m.

Last tour starts at 3:15 p.m.

Here's the perfect way to entertain your Thanksgiving visitors. Spend the day after Thanksgiving exploring our region's heritage at Locust Grove.

Costumed demonstrators will be in the kitchen and woodshop from noon until 4:00 p.m. And you can even do holiday shopping in the museum store, with all items 20 percent off regular price.

Even better, it's all included in the regular admissions price — \$8 for general admission, \$4 for children 6-12, free for children under 6 and Friends of Locust Grove members.



LOCUST GROVE MUSEUM STORE SALE

Friday, November 25 through Sunday, December 4

For special Christmas gifts without traffic hassles, shop our Museum Store! During this sale, you'll receive a 20 percent discount on all purchases. The museum store carries a wide array of stationery, music, toys, special books, and Kentucky-made foods and crafts.

FALL WORKSHOPS

CREATING A PAINTED FLOOR CLOTH

Friday, November 25 and Saturday, November 26
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. both days

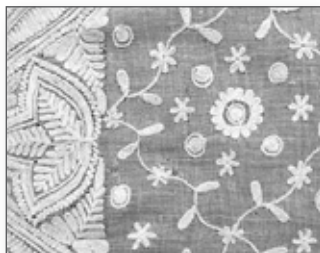
Virginia Tucker, owner of The Virginia Floor Cloth Company in Louisville, will lead participants as they create a canvas floor cloth based on their choice of a nine-diamond or checkerboard pattern. Participants will have the option of using stencils to create a finished cloth at the end of the class. The completed floor cloth will measure 24 x 30 inches. All supplies are included. The cost is \$110 for both days and includes frames, canvas, paint, brushes, and the pattern. Participants should bring a bag lunch for both days. *Must register by Monday, November 21.* Call (502) 897-9845 to register.



CREATING A TAMBOUR ORNAMENT

Saturday, December 3, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Tambour is an embroidery technique that employs a tool resembling a very small crochet hook. Decorative thread is held below the fabric and pulled to the surface to fill in a floral or geometric design, family crests, initials, or any shape the embroiderer chooses. Traditionally done white on white, tambour also was produced on netting for collars, shawls, and other decorative accessories.



Textile conservator and tambour expert **Norah Glickstein** will teach participants this 19th century needlework skill as they create a Christmas ornament. Each person must bring a hands-free embroidery hoop or frame not larger than nine inches, although six to eight inches is ideal. Cost: \$40. Class size: minimum of six, maximum of 15. Please call (502) 897-9845 for reservations.

A CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS

Friday, December 9, 5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 10, 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.



You're invited to join the Clark and Croghan families as they celebrate Christmas in 1809. General George Rogers Clark has just come to live at Locust Grove, and he's eager to meet and greet his friends in the area. All the family members are looking forward to sharing gossip and laughter and hearing about their guests' many activities.

They're eager to show you the latest dances and hope you'll join in singing their favorite songs — all accompanied by the musicians in the Great Parlor. Doorways and hallways, mantels

and stairs are all draped in fresh greens. Exotic pineapples and other fresh fruits decorate tables and sideboards. And out in the kitchen, the cook directs the preparation of the desserts for the house guests.

Back in the Audubon auditorium, it's 2011 — and guests of all ages are invited to create their own Christmas ornaments in 19th century style . . . enjoy cookies and cider . . . and browse through the shelves of special holiday-themed books suitable for gift-giving.

New this year, admission is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children 13 years and under — with a maximum cost of \$18 for the entire family.



HISTORICAL BALL (A NEW EVENT!)

Saturday, January 21, 2012, 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
In the Audubon Room at Locust Grove

Celebrate winter with a dance for all ages! Dress in period clothes from the era of your choice — from ancient Rome to Elizabethan, from the Revolutionary and Civil War periods to the 20th century. A live band will play music from various periods — with special instruction in some of the 19th century dances. Light refreshments will be available for purchase.

Space is limited and reservations are required. Cost: \$20 per person; \$15 for Friends of Locust Grove members and children 13 years of age and younger. Reservations will be accepted after December 1. *Co-sponsored by the Louisville Chapter of the Jane Austen Society of North America.*

2011 -2012 Emilie Strong Smith Chamber Music Series

The Emilie Strong Smith Chamber Music Series allows you to experience music much as the Croghans and Clarks would have. Refreshments are served in the house at 5:00 p.m.; the concerts begin at 5:30 p.m. in the second-floor Great Parlor.

Subscriptions are available — Patron, \$200; Supporter, \$100; and Season Subscriber, \$65. Individual concert tickets may be purchased at \$20 each. Call (502) 897-9845 to purchase season subscriptions or individual tickets.

SUCH SWEET MELODIE

Sunday, November 20, 2011

Enjoy songs by Dowland, Monteverdi and their compatriots performed by **Sarah Tannehill**, soprano; **Phil Spray**, violone and baroque guitar; and **Jeffrey Noonan**, lute, baroque guitar, and theorbo.

Ensemble Musical Offering:

MIDWEST BANDE FOR EARLY MUSIC

Sunday, December 11, 2011

Joan Parsley, harpsichordist, leads a concert of music by Bach and Vivaldi for the Yuletide season.

MUSIC FOR MANNHEIM

Sunday, February 12, 2012

Classical period oboist **Joyce Alper** is a historical woodwind conservation consultant to Boston's Museum of Fine Arts and a veteran of Boston's Handel & Haydn Society. She returns to Locust Grove to play Mozart's famous Oboe Quartet along with **Bill Bauer and the Locust Grove Chamber Musicians**.

THE ITALIAN VIRGINAL

Sunday, March 25, 2012

Harpsichord virtuoso **Dr. Charles Metz** returns to Locust Grove with his 1590s-era

Italian pentagonal Italian Virginal, attributed to the Florentine maker Francesco Poggi.



Dr. Charles Metz at his Italian Virginal during a 2009 performance in the Emilie Strong Smith Chamber Music Series.

Friends of Locust Grove

Enrollment/Renewal from July 1 through September 30, 2011

A hearty "thank you" to all of these people who recently joined or renewed their memberships, and to all of our longtime Friends of Locust Grove!

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Joan H. Todd
Jeannie & John Vezeau
Richard Young/All Booked Up
Yum! Brands Foundation

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Andrew Gentile Antiques LLC
The Antique Market at Distillery Commons
The Crazy Daisy Antiques Mall
Crescent Hill Trading Company

Dover House Antiques & Mercantile
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Goss Avenue Antiques & Interiors
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Oakridge Antiques
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Steve Tipton, Antiquarian
Tin Horse Antiques

Underwriting of 18th Century Market Fair

Chanley Martin and Matt Davis
Donald and Ann Roth

In Kind Donations

Breadworks
First Wednesday Lecture Bakers
Gwynne Potts
Publishers Printing Co.
Diane Statler
Yum! Brands, Inc.

Annual Fund Societies

For people donating \$250 and up to Historic Locust Grove from July 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011.

Clark Family Society (\$1,000+)

Elizabeth S. Gray

Illinois Regiment Society (\$250+)

Susan Reigler & Joanne Goldstein

In Memoriam

We note with sadness the recent deaths of these members of our Locust Grove family. We treasure their generous contributions to Locust Grove of their time, energy, support, and enthusiasm. Thank you.

- ☛ **Marguerite Beatty**, volunteer.
- ☛ **Markie Dobbins**, former volunteer.
- ☛ **Shella Creason Dunlap**, former Board member and volunteer.
- ☛ **Margaret Barr Kulp**, former volunteer.
- ☛ **Lane Long**, former volunteer.

Volunteer Opportunities at Locust Grove

WORKING WITH WOOD

Calling all woodworkers — to join our troupe of period demonstrators. Locust Grove has a large collection of antique planes, saws, and other authentic tools that represent what would have been used to build a house like Locust Grove 200 years ago. Our woodworkers interpret and demonstrate period tools to school groups and visitors. They also use those tools to create items for sale in the Museum Store and lead the summer Woodworking Camp — where campers are thrilled to learn how to make items from wood by hand.

REPRESENTING LOCUST GROVE

Visitors' Center volunteers love meeting people from all over the country and the world. Many of our visitors are from out of town, so our Visitors' Center team is often giving suggestions of other sights to see and restaurants to visit. There's a great deal of variety in this activity — checking in merchandise for the store, answering phones, ringing up sales, chatting with brides and grooms as they search for a wedding venue, as well as learning all about our historic house and site. It's a mixture of customer service, retail, office, and history — all rolled into one.

If you'd like to join the Locust Grove family as a volunteer, please contact **Mary Beth Williams** at (502) 897-9845 or via email at mwilliams@locustgrove.org for more information. Thanks so much.

