



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

August 2015

IMM CONTACTS

ithacamonthlymeeting.org

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Listserv:

To join our email list for solely for meeting-related announcements, send an email message addressed to:

IMMRSF-L-request@cornell.edu

with message body as simply: join

Marilyn's List:

To email Friends and others non-specifically Quaker messages that may be of interest to Friends, consider sending your message through Marilyn Ray. To join or contribute, email:

mlr17@cornell.edu

Another Way to Enjoy Each Other and the Hector Meetinghouse

It's back! Our Multigenerational Camping Retreat will once again be held at the Hector Meetinghouse on Perry City Road, August 28th-30th.

Friends who attended this event two years ago found it to be a fulfilling experience. And you don't have to attend the whole time to experience that—drop-ins are welcome!

We will begin on Friday at 4pm, with camping set-up and dinner preparations. A potluck supper will happen at 6pm, to which all are welcome! After supper we'll have time for singing and worship around a campfire (my personal favorite part of the weekend), until bedtime!

Saturday will see us sharing a communal breakfast, relaxing on the beautiful and tranquil Meetinghouse grounds, and then splitting into the "goers" and the "stayers" Goers will pack a picnic lunch and take a field trip to pick berries at Silver Queen or Glenhaven Farms and perhaps swim in Foster Pond in Finger Lakes National Forest. Stayers can choose among various craft projects, or play games. Saturday evening will look much like Friday, though we may try to play a full-group game (New Games-style) before supper. If you have other ideas or requests for how we might spend our time together, please pass them along!

Sunday after breakfast, we will attend Meeting for Worship in the Meetinghouse (with childcare provided), and then host a brunch afterward. This will conclude our retreat!

If you are planning to camp for one or both nights, please RSVP to Melissa Blake (melissablake2010@gmail.com or 379-4297) and I will tell you what to bring! If coming during the day, please bring food to contribute to our potlucks. Consider bringing money for berries, and a bathing suit! Campers may pitch a tent or sleep in the Meetinghouse. Please note that the facility has no running water. The bathroom is a porta-potty.

— *Melissa Blake*

Epistle from New York Yearly Meeting

To Friends Everywhere,

We gathered again in this the 60th year of a re-united meeting, Hicksite and Orthodox, and the 320th since our founding. The cottonwood trees along the shores of Lake George sent the tiny clouds of their seeds like emissaries of Light through our work, play and worship. After several years of hard but fruitful labor around our leadings and priorities, during which we "sat in the shadows in order to better see them," to quote the week's Bible study leader Mary Kay Glazer, we felt an ease and a unity.

Young Adult Friends strove to inject joy into the yearly meeting where and when they could. They participated in community-building events with the Silver Bay staff; facilitated an intergenerational dinner conversation; served the yearly meeting by working with youth; and linked kayaks far out on the lake for corporate worship. "We couldn't tell where heaven began," one Friend recalled. "We savored the light of summer."

Epistle, continued on page 2

In the absence of our Young Adult Field Secretary, who is on leave, Young Adult Friends leaned into learning Quaker process with the general secretary and others, with particular interest in the practice of standing aside and in corporate discernment. The Young Adult Concerns Committee struggled with planning and scheduling, features felt to be all the more important because of the inherent transience of young adulthood.

We were grateful for the language and spirit of a substantive revision to our Faith and Practice on the recording of gifts in the ministry. We subsequently recorded the gifts in ministry of Margaret Webb, pastor of Farmington Friends Church. We celebrated the broad and deep contributions of Barbara Spring as she looks forward to her retirement as coordinator of the Aging Resources Consultation and Help (ARCH) program and welcomed Callie Janoff as she transitions into her role as director.

The plenary speaker, our own Don Badgley of Poughkeepsie Monthly Meeting, enjoined us to live and work from our spiritual core and become again Publishers of the Truth. He posited that the very survival of the Religious Society of Friends depends on it. He called us to “return to, and share with the world, radical ministries that arise in Experiential Worship.”

From our experience of worship has arisen a recognition of the suffering and injustice caused by racism and white privilege. Having been moved in the spring to become cohosts, with Friends General Conference and other groups, of the 2016 White Privilege Conference, we nurtured the growing community of those intending to participate in the conference. In worship sharing we are actively learning about past and present racism.

Amid the display tables at a busy thoroughfare of our gathering stood a 6 x 9 foot mock solitary confinement cell of the

type in which thousands of incarcerated Americans live and suffer. Many of us felt a quickening to work against mass incarceration and specifically solitary confinement, as well as a new hopefulness in large part due to the concrete actions described by our energetic visitor, Five Mualimm-ak, himself a victim of prolonged isolation in New York State prisons. Friends wrote scores of cards and letters to New York State elected officials asking them to support the HALT Act (Humane Alternatives to Long-term Solitary Confinement), which restricts the use of solitary confinement.

In the shade of a great white pine planted jointly in 1989 by Chief Jake Swamp Senior of the Onondaga nation and the American Friends Service Committee, we came to unity on a letter to Pope Francis exhorting him to repudiate the Doctrine of Christian Discovery that has caused and/or justified such suffering, destruction and genocide in the Americas and around the world.

Our Healing Center, which has reached a decade of service, rests atop a hill overlooking Silver Bay. Through the loving touch and presence of a core of Friends committed to spiritual healing ministry, its energy emanates through all our work and worship in ways both impalpable and precious.

Among us one day after Bible study a small child was heard to sing as if to herself over and over, “Don’t you see our flowers are here. Don’t you see our flowers are here.” Perhaps we did see. Perhaps we were, as our clerk Jeff Hitchcock had invited us to be at the start of the week, “tender with and open to one another as we [met] the openings, challenges and struggles of the week.” We feel great peace, and offer to you this bouquet, variegated yet gathered: who we are and how we grew here.

— *New York Yearly Meeting,
Silver Bay, July 24, 2015*

Black Lives Matter in Cleveland

We at the Multicultural Resource Center cannot thank you enough for your enormous support for the trip to Cleveland for The Movement for Black Lives national conference. It was unexpected, and offered such beautiful buoyancy in the otherwise heavy, exhausting, and endless work of racial justice. Your contribution made it possible for 41 adults, teenagers, & children to attend this incredibly meaningful conference. We had the opportunity to build together, grieve together, learn from one another, and be deeply, culturally nourished.

There is no doubt that our work will continue beyond this convening. In fact, we carried it right onto the bus ride home with us, where we shared, debated, spit poetry, laughed, cried, & cherished the opportunity to bring this experience back home into the greater Ithaca community. We thank you again, and look forward to your allyship and support in this movement. For more information and continued updates on the movement, please check out our new blog here. <http://multiculturalresourcecenter.org/news/>

— *Multicultural Resource Center,
www.multiculturalresourcecenter.org*

Palestine & Israel

“We are moved by the sufferings of the Palestinian and Israeli peoples. This suffering has gone on too long and must not be allowed to continue. We are aware that Israel was born out of horrific violence perpetrated on the Jews—however, the Palestinians were not the perpetrators. We know that both Israelis and Palestinians have committed acts of violence against each other. We are also aware of the huge inequality of power between them.”

— *Canadian Yearly Meeting Policy
Statement on Palestine and Israel.*

The Peace Witness and Social Justice Committees will be planning educational opportunities around Palestine/Israel issues in the coming months. Our hope is that IMM will become engaged in a positive and informed dialogue.

— *Janet Frieswyk*

Sweepers Needed

You walk into the meetinghouse on Sunday morning. The chairs are set in their tidy rows. Fresh towels are hanging on the bathroom racks. A crisp tablecloth has been laid across the dining table in the library. The floors are free of the salt and debris that seem to stick to everything in winter months. How does this magical maintenance happen? The truth is, Ithaca Monthly Meeting is blessed by its own resident team of elves: The Sweepers.

This mysterious bunch schedules weekly cleaning on their own time, rotating through a schedule that allows for each sweeper (or team of sweepers) to clean for a couple hours only once every 4-6 weeks. Rumor has it, this crew finds spiritual nurture in the practice of caring for the meetinghouse, opportunity for connection with others while working on a shared task, and a way for families to contribute their time together.

It is said that a lucky Friend can join the ranks of this elite cleaning force. Tradition suggests that making a circle of potting soil in the middle of the meetingroom floor, standing in the center, and spraying 4 squirts of Windex up into the air is a near-certain method of summoning them. If this doesn't work, you can also try contacting Melody Johnson at rhc1@twcny.rr.com.

— *Gina Varrichio,*
Third Street Meetinghouse Committee

Meetinghouse Door Combination Will Change

The door combination for the meetinghouse will be changed September 1. The following people will be notified of the new combination automatically: trustees, all committee clerks, IMM clerk and assistant clerk, and TSMC members. If you feel you require the new combination, please email John Lewis at johnsherwood@yahoo.com. John will be keeping a list of members with access to the combination.

--*Gina Varrichio,*
Third Street Meetinghouse Committee

Volunteer at Loaves & Fishes

Volunteers are very much needed at Loaves & Fishes of Tompkins County. Volunteer for two hours or five, one day, or regularly:

- Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 9am and 2:30 pm
- Tuesday and Thursdays between 2:30 pm and 8:00 pm

Loaves & Fishes is at St. John's Episcopal Church, 210 North Cayuga St. (the corner of Buffalo and N. Cayuga Streets in Ithaca). To volunteer, just show up at the back kitchen door of church. Or contact us first: 607-272-5457, info@loaves.org. For more information: www.info@loaves.org

— *Gina Varrichio,*
Area Congregations Together

Support Paula Palmer's Research

We will be putting out the donations basket on Sunday, August 24th, to support Paula Palmer's research. Palmer is the author of the powerful workshop we presented at the meetinghouse: "Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change."

We (descendants of settlers and immigrants) and Native peoples need to find a way forward to healing. We can't do this until we know and acknowledge the injuries that were done in the past. It can be said that Friends' actions in the past were part of the general cultural thinking of the times, but that doesn't make those actions right.

Friends are now taking steps to acknowledge Friends' painful history with regard to slavery and slave ownership. We need to do the same exploration and acknowledgment vis a vis Friends' roles in dealing with Native peoples.

Paula Palmer's research will help us learn about, recognize, and acknowledge our role(s) in a shameful history. I don't think we can be a part of the healing until this takes place. I'm sure Paula will welcome whatever support we can give her. Any checks should be made out to "Boulder Friends Meeting" with "Right Relationship" in the subject line.

— *Susan Wolf, on behalf of the*
Peace Witness, Social Justice and Earthcare
Committees

Backpack Program

It is once again that time of year when many children in our region prepare to return to school. Some of these children are unable to afford the items on their back-to-school lists and are in danger of starting the school year without the tools they need to succeed. Enter the Cornell Elves Summer Backpack Program. Local volunteers provide funds and materials to fill backpacks with school supplies for distribution to children in need of them.

Ithaca Monthly Meeting has provided supplies for the last four school years. In total, IMM has been able to distribute 49 filled backpacks to children in our community. This year, we will be providing backpacks to the Southern Cayuga School District, which has a large number of children in need of them.

If you would like to donate towards the purchase of school supplies on behalf of our meeting, you have a few options:

- 1) Mail a check made out to Gina Varrichio (to enable me to spend the accumulated funds on the supply items requested by Southern Cayuga) to Cornell Backpack Program, c/o Gina Varrichio, 166 Crescent Place, Ithaca, NY 14850. If you will be mailing a check, I would appreciate a "pledge" email wherein you let me know how much you intend to donate and that I should be looking for a check in the mail.
- 2) Give me a check or cash at Meeting for Worship. Filling a backpack costs between \$30-\$60. I have found that most early elementary school backpacks cost about \$30 while middle schoolers need more like \$45 to 60. You are invited to donate the full cost of supplying a backpack or any other amount. Smaller donations will be combined to purchase other supplies and any remaining funds will be donated directly to the program to enable them to fill in any gaps they have.
- 3) Do the actual school shopping yourself and donate a stocked backpack to me in lieu of a direct monetary contribution. Please email me for the appropriate supply list.

— *Gina Varrichio*

August in IMM History

A look back at our history through the minutes of our monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

5 Years Ago (August 8, 2010)

Trustees were instructed to sell the Route 79 property, with the proceeds to be used in renovating the new (Third Street) Meetinghouse. Because of concern for the future of the Route 79 property, Trustees were instructed to try to sell it to the City. [Sale to the City of Ithaca was completed at a later date.]

20 Years Ago (August 14, 1995)

Ministry & Oversight reported that the marriage of Janis Kelly and Ellie Rosenberg took place under the care of the Meeting on August 12.

25 Years Ago (August 13, 1990)

Ruth Yarrow was welcomed into membership of IMM. [Ruth served as clerk in 1997 before moving to Seattle for many years. It is a delight to have her back with us].

30 Years Ago (August 12, 1985)

Bonnie Tyler reported for the Sanctuary Committee that Esperanza has been meeting about once per week with groups in the community, usually through churches. She is also seeking to take on more responsibilities in the household [at the Burt House].

50 Years Ago (August 9, 1965)

IMM again decided to use the Hector Meeting House the Sundays of Aug. 15 and Sept. 6. [Soon after, Meeting met at Hector throughout the summer.]

55 Years Ago (August, 1960)

Included with the microfilmed minutes is a newspaper column, presumably Ithaca Journal, on the passing of beloved IMM member Trevor Teele on July 31, 1960, which is summarized here. Born in Watertown, NY in 1884, he married Marta Strube in 1923. Trevor and Marta moved to Ithaca in 1925, where Trevor opened a photography studio, which remained his profession until about 1950. Trevor's early religious affiliation was Baptist. He studies for the ministry and before coming to Ithaca was pastor of two rural New York churches. His interest in theology late in life led him to spend a year of theological study at Pendle Hill. By the time of World

Modeling your Self after anyone,
even Christ or God,
is to no avail.

What is sorely needed by God
is YOU,
both now as you are in this moment,
and in all your reachings to become.

You are not really asked
to become more like God,
(though it may seem so),
but to become indigenous,
belonging to the earth-of-your-Being.

Then God can spring up in you daily,
in all sorts
of surprising ways!

Much of your present work
is a preparing of this
soil-of-Being.

Be known by your own name!

— Sparrow



War I, he had become a convinced pacifist and worked the rest of his life for various peace causes. His strong belief in the way of peace led him to write frequent letters to the Ithaca Journal. During a Civil Defense drill in the mid-1950s, he walked down the middle of State Street in open defiance of regulations during a civil defense drill, being convinced that such drills were a part of preparation for war and obstructed rather than furthered measures that could enhance peace. He was arrested and fined but the presiding judge praised his character in levying the fine. A memorial meeting for Trevor was held the following Sunday afternoon at the Hector Meeting House. In presiding at the memorial service and as part of her introductory comments, Marjorie Burt noted that "Trevor Teele to an unusual degree lived the Truth that 'there is that of God in every man'."

— Tom Brown, Meeting Historian

Rise Up Singing in October

Come to a Singalong concert with Annie Patterson & Peter Blood, the creators of *Rise Up Singing*, celebrating the release of their long-awaited 2nd songbook *Rise Again!* - joined by Kim & Reggie Harris, Charlie King and Sparky & Rhonda Rucker.

The concert will be October 31st at 7:30pm at St Paul's Methodist Church, 402 N. Aurora Street.

This concert will be a benefit for the new Carry It On Fund, which raises funds to support organizations and causes that Pete & Toshi Seeger supported.

When you purchase concert tickets, you can buy copies of *Rise Again* to be picked up at that concert (at a discounted rate & shipping free.) Songbooks will also be available to borrow or buy the evening of the concert.

Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.riseupandsing.org/events/rise-again-ithaca> and books can be pre-ordered. Locally, tickets will be available at Green Star, Autumn Leaves and Ithaca Guitar Works and at Meeting for Worship. \$18 in advance \$20 at the door, HS and younger \$5. Discount (\$10) and comp tickets available for anyone that needs them.

This concert is sponsored by: The Cornell Folk Song Society, Ithaca Friends Meeting, and Poplar Ridge Friends.

Friends, we hope to have our audience reflect the diversity that we have in our Ithaca community. Our performers have been politically active throughout their careers, particularly in areas of Black History, Civil Rights, peace and social justice. This is an excellent opportunity to bring our community together. So we are particularly interested in having those who don't usually go to folk concerts involved. Contact me if you wish to help distribute tickets.

— Melody Johnson,
tcrepea1@twcny.rr.com

Women Swimmin' is August 8th

Visit <http://womenswimmin.kintera.org> to help support hospice services in Tompkins County. Sponsor me, Melissa Travis Dunham, or someone else! It's a great thing.

— Marin Clarkberg

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, July 12, 2015

Clerk: Antonia Saxon
Assistant Clerk: Marilyn Ray
Recording Clerks: Marin Clarkberg, Blair Jennings

(The @ signifies that the minute has been read and approved during Meeting. Copies of all written reports are on file with and available from the Clerk or Recording Clerk.)

2015 7.1 Gathering

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on July 12, 2015. At 12:10 pm, nine Friends gathered and settled into worship. Clerk recognized Nancy Riffer who was holding the Meeting in the Light.

Clerk read three brief passages from David Sox's biography of John Woolman regarding Woolman's travels in the north of England in the summer of 1772:

"He chose to walk. He was very particular in his dress. He wore a coarse cloth like flannel, no cuffs to his coat, a drab hat, a coarse unbleached shirt, no stock or neck-cloth, white woolen stockings, shoes uncurried, the native color, tied with the same. He drank no foreign liquors or tea. He did not choose to drink out of silver or make use of silver spoons. Herb tea sometimes he drank, sweetened with honey. Sugar he never chose. He was indeed a striking pattern of temperance and humility."

— Sarah Hall

"He is certainly a very deep minister that searches things quite to the bottom, greatly exercised in a life of self-denial and humility. Therefore must the will of the creature be more subdued and the better fitted to receive the mystery of the kingdom, which I believe through much obedience are largely opened. And I can't but think Providence hath some wise end in what seems difficult to reconcile with man's wisdom. Perhaps it may be intended as a means to wean many from the things which outwardly adorn the body, and likewise other luxuries and delicacies, too much prevailing amongst those in exalted stations as to this world's enjoyments, besides the testimony he apprehends it a duty to bear against the iniquitous trading in Negroes that so deeply affected his mind as to make his tears both as meat and drink for many days..."

— Tabitha Hoyland

"I have felt great distress of mind since I came on this island, on account of the members of our Society being mixed with the world in various sorts of business and traffic carried on in impure channels. Great is the trade to Africa for slaves! And in loading these ships abundance of people are employed in the factories, amongst whom are many of our Society!"

— John Woolman

2015 7.2 Peace Witness and Social Justice Committee

Susan Wolf reminded Friends of the June 2014 workshop called "Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with America's Native Peoples" that was designed by Paula Palmer of Boulder Friends Meeting. Paula Palmer is now undertaking new research into Friends' roles in the Indian Boarding Schools. This research will help us learn about, recognize, and acknowledge our role(s) in a shameful history. This is an important step towards healing. Paula Palmer has a grant to support this research in Philadelphia, but she requires and is seeking additional funding.

The Peace Witness and Social Justice committees have already given a small donation, and would like to ask Friends in our Meeting support her efforts by putting out the contributions basket one Sunday in August.

Friends approved putting out the basket for this purpose for one Sunday in August; the particular Sunday will be selected after consulting calendars and the Ad Hoc Working Group for Immigrant Support. @

2015 7.3 Ad Hoc Working Group for Immigrant Support

Margaret McCasland reported on behalf of the Ad Hoc Working Group for Immigrant Support. The group continues to provide monthly financial support to Ambroise Lumanikio Nganyinoko, a refugee from Congo, and recently has paid some medical bills not reimbursed by Medicaid. Ambroise hopes to attend TC3 in the fall, and will need some additional financial assistance. The Ad Hoc Group would like the Meeting to consider reinstating the Third Sunday collection for four months to replenish our Refugee Assistance Fund beginning in July. These contributions, to be designated for individual refugee support needs, are not tax-deductible contributions.

Friends approved putting out the contributions basket on third Sunday for the next four months. @

2015 7.4 Other concerns

A Friend reported that Northside United, a community organization not yet established as a 501c3, will be seeking grants and may need to run their funding through a fiscal sponsor. Friends discussed the possibilities. @

Nine Friends settled into worship at 12:40 before adjourning. There will be no Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business in August, and thus our next is planned to be held September 13.

Respectfully submitted,

Marin Clarkberg, Recording Clerk

Exhibit on the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb

For those who might be in Washington, D.C. before August 16, there is an Exhibition on the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb at the American University Museum, 4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the attacks. The show includes 20 artifacts collected from the debris of the 1945 atomic bombings, as well as six large folding screens that depict the horrors of the event. The 1995 Nobel Peace Prize nominees, Iri and Toshi Maruki, created a total of 15 screens over 32 years from 1950. This exhibition, made possible by the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum, is meant to deepen understanding of the damage wrought by nuclear weapons and inspire peace in the 21st century. More information is available at the following website: <http://www.american.edu/cas/museum/index.cfm>

— Elizabeth Schneider

Women's Chair Yoga Mondays and Thursdays 11a-noon

Our gentle, restorative practice focusing on women's health will continue through August. There may be days when too many of the regulars are away and the group won't meet, so it's good to text or call Nancy Gabriel, 607-339-7123, or Sue Perlgut, 607-227-3224. Call or e-mail Nancy if you'd like more information.

— Nancy Gabriel

Volunteer Needed

We are in need of someone with a van or truck who is willing to take trash/recycling from Northside Community Celebration on August 8th. It will probably be 3-4 large bags. Please contact Karen Friedeborn if you are willing karen.friedeborn@gmail.com or (607) 280-5208.

August 2015 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

In Remembrance: Hiroshima and Nagasaki Thursday, August 6, 6:00pm, Burt House

There will be a one hour silent vigil (rain or shine) seated around the Peace Pole in front of the Burt House, 227 North Willard Way to mark the 70th anniversary of the dropping of the first nuclear bomb on Hiroshima, Japan by the United States. This is a vigil of mindfulness and remembrance of the thousands of persons who were killed 70 years ago in Hiroshima at the instant of the blast, and of those who suffered and died from their injuries. We will also be remembering the thousands of persons who were killed and injured three days later in Nagasaki, Japan. All are welcome.

Northside Community Celebration Saturday, August 8, 3-6p

Join in this neighborhood celebration, to be held at our Meetinghouse. There will be music, dancing, food and children's activities. We still need volunteers to help! Please contact Carolyn Kenyon, 273-7922 or clkenyon09@gmail.com.

Note: there will be no Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business in August

Dish-to-Pass Brunch Sunday, August 23, Rise of Meeting

Bring something tasty to share if you can. All are welcome.

On Sundays

- 10:00a **Meeting for Worship** at Hector Meetinghouse on Perry City Road
- 10:30a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages at Third Street
- 10:45a **First Day School** attenders exit the meetingroom and gather for play or other activities.

Newsletter submissions due Thursday, August 27, 5p

Please provide your newsletter contributions to Marin Clarkberg: 150 Giles St., 14850, 607-279-4722, clarkberg@cornell.edu.

Multigenerational Retreat at Hector MH Friday, August 28 - Sunday, August 30

See page 1 for more information.

Annual Young Friends Welcome Picnic Saturday, August 29, 5:30p

This annual welcome for students will be held at the Burt House. Contact Lenora Schneller for more information.

Fifth Sunday Experiment with Light Sunday, August 30, 9a

Experiment with Light is a guided meditation intended to recreate the transformative effects of early Quaker Meetings for Worship. Led by Dreia Spies, the format will be 45-50 minutes of guided meditation followed by worship sharing. All are welcome.

Are you willing to co-facilitate on occasion? Dreia would like to introduce a regular practice of fifth Sunday Experiments with Light.

Other Weekly IMM Events

- Wed 7:30p **Meeting for worship** at the Burt House, 227 N. Willard Way
- Sun 1:00p **Friends Bike Clinic** at the Meetinghouse. You bring your bike and a willingness to get your hands dirty. We bring tools and know-how.