

Brookville

Multifaith Campus

NEWS



Room for All

An Open and Affirming
Campus to the
LGBTQIA+ community.

December
2023

*One house, many faiths, endless
opportunities for growth!*

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Vision Statement

Through learning opportunities, essential partnerships, and occasional shared worship, our campus welcomes all who want to learn, question and grow, while making a positive and lasting impact in the community and world.

Mission

To build a multifaith community of people from different faiths who connect to one another by embracing similarities while celebrating differences.

Find a Place to Belong

We invite you to discover a spiritual community made up of different religious groups. Each group maintains its own religious identity but fosters an open environment for learning, celebrating and honoring each distinct religion.

THE LIGHT OF ADVENT:

A few weeks ago, our Brookville Multifaith Campus gathered to celebrate Thanksgiving with emphasis on the light of Thanksgiving. Although current world problems have made it difficult to celebrate, we chose to come together and share ways to find light in difficult and dark times. The light of Thanksgiving proved to be expansive as we shared our prayers and radiated the truth of the importance of gathering together.

Now, our challenge is to celebrate the light of Advent. This light is more introspective as we honor the "advent" or arrival of Christ's presence on earth. It's a light of waiting in which a great deal of patience is needed to keep our focus on its power. The lighting of the Advent wreath in the four weeks before Christmas, in the spirit of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love symbolizes the needs of our souls as the days get colder and the nights longer. But our spiritual needs often clash with the cultural demands before us. How do we celebrate a spirit of waiting when commercials tell us we can find delight with a simple click.

In an Advent sermon, theologian and pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer spoke to this issue in the words, "Waiting is an art that our impatient age has forgotten. It wants to break open the ripe fruit when it has hardly finished planting the shoot. The fruit that had seemed so precious is still green on the inside, and disrespected hands ungratefully toss aside what has so disappointed them."

One Sunday in Advent, I faced this reality in the middle of a sermon I was delivering on asking important questions in the face of the Christmas rush. I invited children up to help me illustrate my point with their words and gestures.

I asked them, "What do you want for Christmas?" A rush of energy overtook them and the congregation was treated to a loud litany of commercial products. The eyes of the children were racing down the list of items that they wanted and advertisers demanded they get.

Then I asked them, "What do you need for Christmas?" A thoughtful silence followed, and then, these ministers of imagination proclaimed the themes of Advent with eyes of wonder and surprising grace. "I hope to get better grades in school"; "We all love our grandpa who is sick and need him to get better"; "Peace with my little sister and big brother"; "I need to enjoy my time with my family."

I don't want to dismiss the role of culture in helping us celebrate the lights of this festive season, but we need to challenge ourselves to asks the right questions and look for light that lasts.

~ Rev. Bill McBride



Hanukkah

Hanukkah, the Jewish festival of rededication, also known as the Festival of Lights, is an eight-day festival beginning on the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev (this year corresponding to December 7th). Hanukkah (alternately spelled Chanukah), meaning "dedication" in Hebrew, refers to the joyous eight-day celebration during which Jews remember the victory of the Maccabees over the Greeks and "rededication" of the Temple in Jerusalem.

According to tradition, at the time of the rededication, there was very little oil left. Oil was needed for the menorah (candelabrum) in the Temple, which was supposed to burn throughout the night every night. There was only enough oil to burn for one day, yet miraculously, it burned for eight days, the time needed to prepare a fresh supply of oil for the menorah. An eight-day festival was declared to commemorate this miracle, the miracle of the oil.

The highlight of the festival of Hanukkah is the mitzvah of kindling the Hanukkah candles every evening. Traditionally this mitzvah is fulfilled by placing the candles in a chanukiyah (a menorah of nine candle holders) and kindling one each of the eight nights. But in the first few days, the menorah always seems very empty and incomplete. As we light another candle each night, the room that was once filled with darkness suddenly becomes a room filled with light and hope.

But what are the candles saying?

Never be afraid to stand up for what's right. Judah Maccabee and his band faced daunting odds, but that didn't stop them. With a prayer on their lips and faith in their heart, they entered the battle of their lives - and won. We can do the same.

A little light goes a long way. The Chanukah candles are lit when dusk is falling. Perched in the doorway, they serve as a beacon for the darkening streets. No matter how dark it is outside, a candle of goodness can transform the darkness itself into light.

Don't be afraid to shine. Rather, be like a menorah, proudly proclaiming its radiant uniqueness for all to see. A single flame was good enough for yesterday, but today it needs to be even better. Shine outwards into your surroundings. Your goal isn't just to make a big flash of light and then walk away all burnt out. Your goal is to make yourself a shining light and your world an enlightened place.

The message of Hanukkah is a message of light and hope. An act of goodness and kindness can make all the difference in the world.

Think about it as lighting one candle at a time.
Chag Hanukkah Sameach – Happy Hanukkah!

Love and Blessings,
~ *Rabbi Scott Matous*



Virtual Shabbat Services Email newsynagogue.li@gmail.com for details

The Story of Nativity in the Bible and the Quran

The Nativity, or the birth of Jesus, is a significant event in both Christianity and Islam. However, the descriptions of the Nativity in the Bible and the Quran have some similarities and differences.

In the Bible, the account of how Jesus Christ was born is told in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, with some differences. The story begins with the angel Gabriel announcing to Mary, a virgin, that she will conceive a child by the Holy Spirit. She is engaged to Joseph, who had decided to divorce her secretly, but is told by an angel in a dream to take her as his wife. They travel to Bethlehem to register for a census ordered by Caesar Augustus. There, Mary gives birth to Jesus in a manger, because there is no room for them in the inn. Shepherds and wise men visit and worship baby Jesus, who is the light and life of the world.

In surah 19 in the Quran, with the title 'Maryam' (which is Mary's name in Arabic), it is said:

"And remember the story of Mary; when she retired from her family to a place towards the east, and took a veil to conceal herself from them; and we sent our spirit Gabriel unto her, and he appeared unto her in the shape of a perfect man.

She said, I seek refuge unto the merciful God, that He may defend me from thee: if thou fear Him thou wilt not approach me.

He answered, Verily I am the messenger of thy Lord, and am sent to give thee the news of a holy son. She said, how shall I have a son, seeing a man hath not touched me, and I am no harlot?

Gabriel replied, so shall it be: thy Lord saith, This is easy with me; and We will perform it, that We may ordain him for a sign unto men, and a mercy from Us: for it is a thing which is decreed.

Wherefore she conceived him; and she retired aside with him in her womb to a distant place; and the pains of childbirth came upon her near the trunk of a palm-tree. She said, Would to God I had died before this, and had become a thing forgotten, and lost in oblivion.

And he who was beneath her called to her, saying, be not grieved; now hath God provided a stream under thee. and do thou shake the body of the palm-tree, and it shall let fall ripe dates upon thee ready gathered. And eat, and drink, and calm thy mind.

Moreover, if thou see any man, and he question thee, say, Verily I have vowed a fast unto the Merciful God: wherefore I will by no means speak to a man this day.

So she brought the child to her people, carrying him in her arms. And they said unto her, O Mary, now hast thou done a strange thing: O sister of Aaron, thy father was not a bad man, neither was thy mother a harlot.

But she made signs unto the child to answer them; and they said, how shall we speak to him, who is an infant in the cradle?

Whereupon the child said, Verily I am the servant of God He hath given me the book of the gospel, and hath appointed me a prophet."

We can see that the birth of Christ is described in the Bible and the Quran with some similarities and differences.

Similarities:

- Both the Bible and the Quran affirm that Jesus was born of a virgin named Mary, who was chosen and favored by God.
- Both the Bible and the Quran narrate that an angel announced to Mary the miraculous conception of Jesus, and that he would be a sign and a blessing for humanity.
- Both the Bible and the Quran acknowledge that Jesus is the Messiah, the word of God, and a prophet who performed miracles.

Differences:

- The Bible provides more details about the Nativity, such as the place (Bethlehem), the time (during the reign of King Herod), and the visitors (shepherds and wise men).
- The Quran provides a significantly different account of the Nativity. Jesus is born not in Bethlehem but in an unspecified "distant place". While giving birth to him, Mary is all alone, and there is no Joseph to help her. Remarkably, she is said to give birth under a palm tree, next to a miraculous spring.
- The Bible does not mention any speech by the infant Jesus, while the Quran reports that he spoke in the cradle to defend his mother from the accusations of adultery, and to declare his mission as a messenger of God.

~ Dr. Syed Asad and Imam Sultan Abdulhameed



The Holiday Spirit at the Interfaith Community of Long Island

How do you celebrate and honor your shared traditions at the Interfaith Community of Long Island?

We eagerly look forward to celebrating with members, family, and friends at our annual holiday party. This year, we will be celebrating on Sunday, December 17th. Our children and youth-led Christmas pageant at 10 a.m. is a fitting and heartwarming way to start the day. We then gather as a community in Fellowship Hall and participate in all sorts of holiday activities. Kids engage in friendly competition by playing the dreidel game and reindeer ring toss. They express their creativity by constructing Hanukkah crafts and decorating Christmas cookies. They also have the opportunity to enjoy eating holiday themed foods and snacks such as potato latkes, jelly donuts, candy canes and Christmas cookies. Our Steering Committee members and volunteers have been organizing food sign-ups and planning fun activities for the enjoyment of all.

How do you celebrate and honor your shared traditions in your home?

I love the days and weeks leading up to the holidays! In our house, we celebrate Hanukkah and Christmas. I love to decorate our home - inside and out - making it feel welcoming and festive. We set up our menorah and get a real Christmas tree each year. We decorate the tree with ornaments from places we have traveled over

the past 20+ years. Each ornament brings back memories and stories of our different adventures.

How do you celebrate and honor your shared traditions?

At our house, we light the menorah for each of the eight nights of Hanukkah and also light the candles on the advent wreath. I love the connection of "light" in both traditions. This year, we are hosting my husband's family for Hanukkah and my family for Christmas Eve. Jewish and Christian members of our family join us at the Brookville Multifaith Campus for the annual pageant, service and holiday party. Our youngest child participates in the Christmas pageant and our older kids volunteer to help with the activity stations like cookie decorating and letters to Santa.

The question is: how do you celebrate and honor your shared traditions? The answer is really unique to each family. For some families, the answer evolves over time and as our children get older. Our shared traditions do pose challenges - a few years ago the first night of Hanukkah fell on Christmas Eve! But we celebrate and honor both traditions in a way that works for us. We truly enjoy celebrating Hanukkah and Christmas and get wrapped up in the holiday spirit!

~ *Christine Mankes*, Communications Chai

How can I stay informed?

EMAIL

Please check your email for updates. If you would like to be added to our email distribution list, please email ifcoflongisland@gmail.com.

SOCIAL MEDIA

IFCLI website: <https://www.interfaithli.org/home>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ifcli>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/interfaithcommunityli/>

SYNAGOGUE OF THE MONTH VIRTUAL SHABBAT SERVICE 5784

The New Synagogue of Long Island
The Synagogue for Spiritual Judaism
Rabbi Scott Matous, Cantor Irene Failenbogen

Synagogue of the Month Virtual Shabbat Service
at 6:30 PM

Please join us on Friday, December 1, 2023

The Community of the New Synagogue of Long Island, in conjunction with the other faith communities of the Multifaith Campus, are invited to a virtual memorial service honoring the year anniversary of the passing of Rabbi Stuart Paris.

We have no membership dues or fees. All are welcome.

We rely on your support and commitment! Please support The New Synagogue of Long Island as generously as you can. Your contributions are the lifeblood of The New Synagogue. Please help us keep alive our inspiring teachings of Spiritual Judaism.

[Print the form and mail it to us!](#)

[Donate online](#)

[Zoom Invitation.](#)

[Shabbat Service Booklet](#)
[Synagogue of the Month](#)

Email: newsynagogue.li@gmail.com
www.newsynagogue-li.org



Muslim Reform Movement Organization

Quran Study by Zoom every
other Sunday
2:30 - 4:30 p.m. **All are
welcome!**

To be invited to the meeting,
please send an email to
<mailto:muslimreform@hotmail.com>

Reformed *Jumua* prayer in
person at the
Brookville Multifaith Campus
Every Friday: The *Khutba* is at
1:10 PM in English
The Prayer (*Salat*) begins at **1:30
PM.**

In the prayer, the Arabic
recitation is followed by its
English translation.

Hosted by: **Imam Sultan
Abdulhameed**, author of
“*The Quran & the Life of
Excellence*”



Mark your calendars!

Interfaith religious education classes on **Sunday, 12/3 at 11am. All are welcome!** Registration is still open. Please let us know if you are attending by sending a message on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ifcli/> or by using the contact form at our website <http://www.interfaithli.org/home>

IFCLI Christmas Pageant and Holiday Party! Come celebrate Hanukkah and Christmas with us on **Sunday, 12/17**

Pageant & service begins at 10 a.m.

Party begins at 10:45 a.m.

Cookie decorating, Letters to Santa, Latkes, Dreidel and more!

Please check our website at <https://www.interfaithli.org/home> for a full calendar of exciting events that have been planned for your interfaith family this year!



Brookville Church

2 Brookville Rd. Glen Head, NY 11545
brookvillechurch@gmail.com
516-626-0414

Warmly invites you to

Christmas Eve Candlelight Celebration

Friday, December 24 at 6 PM

The service will be hybrid - you may attend in person or request a zoom link at brookvillechurch@gmail.com

At the end of Interfaith Community classes on Nov. 19th we had our annual Thanksgiving sing-along, led by Cantor Irene and Rev. Bill. The kids all had a great time singing and being with their IFC friends!



Brookville Tag Sale and Craft Show fundraiser coming in May 2024!

Anyone interested in participating on our planning committee please contact Lisa Denison at LMDenison24@gmail.com or text at 516-695-1123.

Regular meetings will begin after the holidays.

More to come..!

If you have something you would like to brag about please send your submissions to bookvillemfc@gmail.com by the 20th of the month prior. We'd love to celebrate with you!

Multifaith Thanksgiving Celebration

Sunday, November 12, 2023



The Next Chapter



In Between The Seasons

Growing up in the states that run across the middle of our northern border area gives an experience that separates their residents from the rest of the nation. From the flat

Dakotas, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska to Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin - all of them are known as the Midwest. There are four other states on the eastern fringe which were not considered Midwest enough by the rest because they had large populations and did not have great plains as part of their geography. However the one thing that was shared among all of them was weather and especially at the end of the year.

Fall seems to be shorted when God put the calendars together. In the southern rank of the Midwest states the summer continues quite long towards December while in the northern tier summer stops near August and the ground gets COLD in September. I have often written here about water puddles freezing at night in September.

Growing things cease to grow. Days are shorter to nobody's benefit. Temperatures drop. Fishing season stops.

Here in the east we know there is a fall - it even has a distinctive name - autumn. The editor of the Yankee magazine calls it "our Mardi Gras" a brief intense time and people flock to New England from all over.

Nobody heads to the Midwest for a fall vacation. There, the comfort of reverie for summer's pleasure is deceptive because the threat of winter is more realistic. As farmers prepare their fields in the spring, the Midwesterners prepare their land

for winter. Fall is a flat place that doesn't have much to elevate feelings when winter is relentlessly coming.

I remember a family that we visited because our parents were friends. They grew turkeys starting when the birds were old enough to go out and scratch for the feed and grow all summer for what? Fall and the end days as Thanksgiving approaches there is a harvest of the birds. I have seen it a few times and it is not a pleasant spectacle. When it was over our friends packed up and went south to better seasons.

There are many causes for depression among people and in this modern era the media and the health industry are watchful for people who are at risk of depression. March and April are the leading months for depression. The time in between the seasons - October and November is second, but those victims are heading into the winter fury and right into the March-April worst depression time.

I admit that I am not a fan of the time that I call in between the seasons. My lead sentence beginning this composition says "growing up in the states that run across the middle". The winter weather is a prominent factor that inhabits the minds, the days, the enthusiasm (or lack of it) the work that is harder, and much of the conversation. The readers of these articles all know that Minnesota and the Midwest are often included since long ago; It is inbred in my system. I can easily exclaim about much in the Midwest, but in between the seasons has been a down for me. Now, I wonder, If I lived there again would I find it - better?

~ *Branch Worsham*

BEAT NAVY!