

Brookville

Multifaith Campus

NEWS

One house, many faiths, endless opportunities for growth!



Room for All

An Open and Affirming
Campus to the
LGBTQIA+ community.

November
2025

2 Brookville Road, Glen Head, NY 11545
516-626-0414

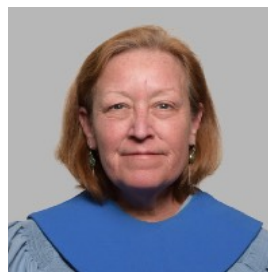
Facebook: [Brookville-Church-Multifaith-Campus](https://www.facebook.com/Brookville-Church-Multifaith-Campus)
Email: Brookvillemfc@gmail.com

Brookville Church

BrookvilleChurch.org brookvillechurch@gmail.com



Rev. Vicky L. Eastland, Pastor
vickyleastland@gmail.com



Carol Goglia, Minister of Music
cgoglia@aol.com

The New Synagogue of Long Island

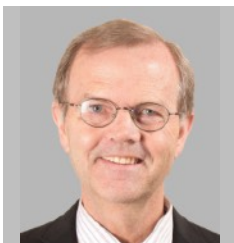
newsynagogue-li.org
newsynagogue.li@gmail.com



Rabbi Irene Failenbogen
irenetunes@aol.com

The Interfaith Community of Long Island

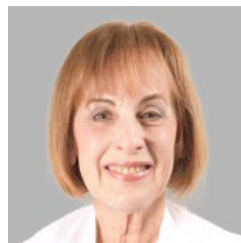
ifcoflongisland@gmail.com Interfaithli.org



Rev. William McBride &
Rabbi Irene Failenbogen
Directors of Education
irenetunes@aol.com

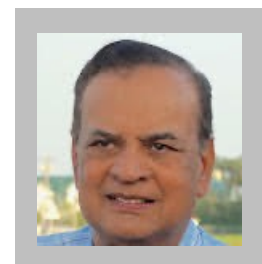


Rev. Enid Kessler
Spiritual Advisor
interfaith4you@gmail.com



Muslim Reform Movement

Organization. MRMO.org
muslimreform@hotmail.com



Dr. Syed Asad, Co-Founder
mmsglobalfoundation.org/

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.

LIFE IS LIKE A BOX OF WONDER--WONDER BOX LESSONS

Life is like a box of wonder, you never know what you're gonna get. This adaptation of the unforgettable words of Forrest Gump could describe the experience of the Wonder Box Lesson during the services at the Brookville Church on the Sundays of classes for the Interfaith Community (IFC) of Long Island. You never know what's inside the box set in the middle of the church designed to center the lesson on the meaning of the surprising objects within.



For the past few years, this lesson has been guided by Rev. Vicky, Rev. Bill and Rabbi/Cantor Irene. Objects have included mirrors, combs, water, photos, cell phones and a variety of other things meant to invoke wonder in the congregation. A recent Wonder Box Lesson includes a Bible and a bobble-head used to

elaborate on a lesson from the story of the Tower of Babel.

The leaders of the lesson are the young people of the Brookville Multifaith Campus. Sometimes described as ministers of imagination, these children challenge the adults in the community to open up their spirits with a sense of wonder.

This meaningful ritual could be described as the three R's, each letter referring to a movement that happens each time the Wonder Box Lesson is observed: Race, Reach, and Raise. First, volunteers race up to the box to assist in the lesson. Second, they are asked to reach out and into the box to obtain a particular object. Third, they raise up the object of the lesson for all to see and wonder about its meaning. In the end, everyone of the congregation engages in a discussion, demonstration or explanation to elicit a deeper meaning of the moment and object before them.

~Rev. Bill McBride

The Next Chapter



In 1963 we left the military service life and the first home we had was Nancy's family's cottage on a beach near Northport, NY. It became our summer

house where, over time, the kids learned to swim and water ski, but it was too remote for commuting to work. The next year we bought a new house in Muttontown, just a mile south of the Brookville Church where we started to attend. It was a lovely home and children numbers 2, 3 and 4 were born while living there for five years. Baby Marie (# 4) arrived and made us realize we needed another bedroom so we bought our joy - a converted barn on a former estate in Old Westbury. It had the main house and two other buildings which became rental units. So we had enough space for kids and visitors. We called that place home for over fifty years.

The summer that Marie was born, we created what would be our family's life style. A style that enjoyed the Beach House water in the summer and other places later on. That first June we invited (hired) a teenage girl that my parents in Minnesota found and vouched for. We moved everyone out to the Beach House for the three months of summer. The babysitter was intended as Nancy's help with baby Marie - but the Minnesota girl was also familiar with the water and swimming so the three boys started to learn to swim jumping in from our dock. For eight or ten years every summer was spent there and the teenager Dannell was part of the family every summer. She became a lifetime friend.

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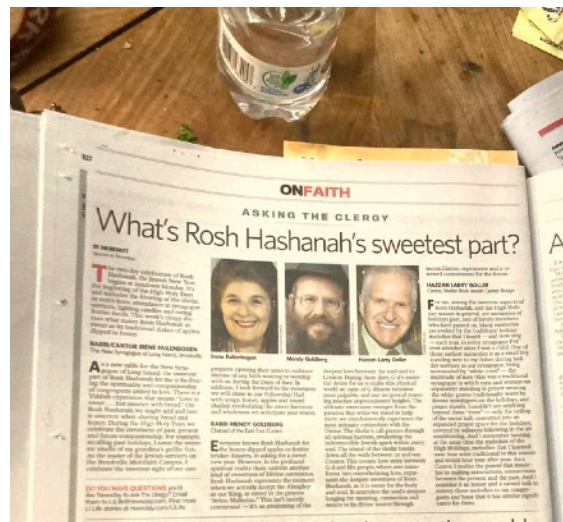
As Seen in Newsday

Members of our campus are frequent contributors to Newsday's "Ask the Clergy" column.

Rabbi Irene Failenbogen and Rev. Bill McBride both contributed to recent columns.



Newsday, Oct. 12, 2025



Newsday, Sept. 28, 2025

ONFAITH

ASKING THE CLERGY

Why take a Bible study class?

BY JIM MERRITT



William McBride

describe teaching with my brother Tom, an experienced educator and family therapist. I would advertise the exciting opportunity with the words, "Feel the vibes of biblical companionship." Two outcomes of the class, based on Tom's input, could serve as incentives for anyone considering further scriptural exploration in a group setting. The first, and most surprising, outcome for me was Bible classroom tension. Tom reminded me that tension is important in the learning process. It's the kind of tension in the strings of an instrument necessary for making a beautiful sound. We enjoyed adjusting the tensions in the group as we discussed fascinating Bible verses and topics from an array of perspectives. Biblical stories and personal reflections elicited tears of joy and sadness. Engaging discussions and interpretations based on research and experience created an intense environment of insights. The second outcome and our last class was a biblical banquet in which students brought food items associated with the Bible. Our potluck included pomegranates, figs and lentil soup. One clever student brought lettuce with the explanation, "Lettuce pray!" Students shared reflections based on their favorite Bible passages. We developed discipline in gathering weekly and learned to value the vibrations of a family formed in faith.

THE REV. WILLIAM MCBRIDE
Religious Director, Interfaith Community Religious Education Program, Brookville Multifait Camp, Glen Head

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS you'd like Newsday to ask the clergy? Email them to LILife@newsday.com. Find more LI Life stories at newsday.com/LILife.

ONFAITH

ASKING THE CLERGY

What's Rosh Hashanah

BY JIM MERRITT
Special to Newsday



Rabbi/Cantor Irene Failenbogen
The New Synagogue of Long Island, Brookville



Rabbi Mendy Goldberg
Chabad of the East End, Coram

The two-day celebration of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, begins at sundown Monday. It's the beginning of the High Holy Days and includes the blowing of the shofar, or ram's horn, attendance at synagogue services, lighting candles and eating festive meals. This week's clergy discuss what makes Rosh Hashanah as sweet as its traditional dishes of apples dipped in honey.

AS A new rabbi for the New Synagogue of Long Island, the sweetest part of Rosh Hashanah for me is facilitating the spirituality and companionship of congregants united in love. There is a Yiddish expression that means "Love is sweet... but sweeter with bread." On Rosh Hashanah, we might add and love is sweetest when sharing bread and honey. During the High Holy Days, we celebrate the sweetness of past, present and future companionship. For example, recalling past holidays, I savor the sweetest smells of my grandma's gefilte fish. As the leader of the Jewish services on the Brookville Multifait Campus, I celebrate the sweetest sight of our congregants opening their arms to embrace anyone of any faith wanting to worship with us during the Days of Awe. In addition, I look forward to the sweetness we will share in our Fellowship Hall with songs, honey, apples and round challah symbolizing the sweet harmony and wholeness we anticipate year round.

EVERYONE knows Rosh Hashanah for the honey-dipped apples or festive brisket dinners, in asking for a sweet new year. However, in the profound spiritual reality there unfolds another kind of sweetness of Divine coronation. Rosh Hashanah represents the moment when we actively accept the Almighty as our King, as noted in the prayers "Avinu Malkeinu." This isn't merely ceremonial — it's an awakening of the

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Many archived articles can be read at www.brookvillemultifaitcampus.org/in-the-news

The Hidden Heart of Islam: 5 Surprising Truths About the Path of the Sufis

(This article was originally published on MMSglobalfoundation.org)



Dr. Syed Asad

Introduction: Beyond the Whirling Dervishes

When the term Sufism arises, many people immediately think of Rumi's evocative poetry or the mesmerizing movements of the whirling dervishes. While these images are captivating, they only

hint at a much deeper and richer tradition. At the core of these practices lies Tasawwuf, which serves as the spiritual discipline at the heart of Islam. Contrary to misconceptions, Tasawwuf is not separate from Islam nor is it "un-Islamic." Instead, it is the inner science of the soul, focused on purifying the heart, fostering deep contemplation, and nurturing closeness to Allah.

Jalaluddin Rumi beautifully expresses this unity: "The lamps are different, but the Light is the same." In this metaphor, the lamp represents the outward practices of faith, while the light signifies the Divine truth that shines through them. Tasawwuf is the art of refining the lamp of the heart, enabling the Light of God to shine undistorted. This article explores five surprising truths about the Sufi path, highlighting its essential role in Islam, its value for meditation and reflection, and its continuing relevance in modern life.

1. Sufism Is Not a Separate Sect—It Is the Inner Core of Islam

One widespread misconception is that Sufism is an exotic offshoot of Islam. In reality, Sufism is not a distinct sect but the inward dimension of the faith itself. Classical Islamic scholars referred to it as 'ilm al-tazkiyah (the science of purification) and 'ilm al-sulūk (the science of the journey), both of which are centered on achieving Ihsan, or spiritual excellence.

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ described Ihsan in the famous Hadith of Gabriel as "worshipping Allah as though you see Him, and if you do not see Him,

then know that He sees you." This represents the essence of Tasawwuf: living each moment in conscious awareness of God's presence. Rather than being a mystical addition, Tasawwuf is the peak of faith. As Rumi reminds us, "Don't get lost in your pain, know that one day your pain will become your cure." This path focuses on healing the heart, allowing us to walk with Allah in clarity and love.

2. Purification of the Heart Is a Duty, Not an Option

In contemporary society, spirituality is often marketed as an optional form of self-care. Islam, however, treats inner purification as a fundamental obligation for every believer. Human hearts are susceptible to destructive emotions such as arrogance, greed, envy, hypocrisy, and pride. These are not trivial flaws but sins that threaten one's faith.

Imam Abul Hasan al-Shadhili cautioned, "He who does not truly acquire this discipline will die persisting on major sins without being aware of it." For this reason, Sufi practices like meditation (muraqabah), reflection (tafakkur), and remembrance (dhikr) are not optional—they are spiritual medicines that sustain the heart. The Qur'an itself commands, "Remember Allah often, that you may be successful" (62:10). Tasawwuf develops practical approaches to fulfill this Qur'anic instruction in everyday life.

3. The Name "Sufi" Comes from Wool—A Symbol of Simplicity

Despite its profound aspirations, the term Sufi traces back to modest beginnings. The most widely accepted origin is šūf, the Arabic word for wool. Early practitioners wore coarse wool garments as a sign of their rejection of material luxury and their commitment to humility. This was not a withdrawal from society, but a deliberate act of simplicity in an era of increasing wealth.

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The Hidden Heart of Islam: 5 Surprising Truths About the Path of the Sufis continued...

Some scholars link the term to the Ahl al-Ṣuffa, the Companions of the Prophet ﷺ who lived in his mosque, dedicating themselves to worship and service. Regardless of origin, the name signifies simplicity, sincerity, and freedom from excess. Rumi's advice resonates: "Try to accept your changing fortunes. Be like a tree and let the dead leaves drop." The woolen cloak serves as a reminder to let go of what is unnecessary and to focus the heart solely on Allah.

4. Balancing Ecstasy with Discipline

The history of Sufism is characterized by a dynamic tension between two approaches. The "drunken" mystics were so enraptured by divine love that they occasionally made startling, ecstatic declarations. Mansur al-Hallaj, who proclaimed "Ana al-Haqq" ("I am the Truth"), is a well-known example and was executed for blasphemy. In contrast, the "sober" mystics, such as Junayd al-Baghdadi, emphasized discipline and insisted that mystical experiences must be rooted in the Qur'an and Sunnah.

This careful balance preserved Sufism's foundations in Islam, preventing it from diverging into heresy. Imam Malik summed it up: "Whoever practices Tasawwuf without fiqh is a heretic. Whoever learns fiqh without Tasawwuf is corrupt. But whoever combines both has realized the truth." Over time, Tasawwuf matured into a disciplined and orthodox framework, enriching spirituality while upholding Islamic law.

5. The Goal Is Not Escape—But Finding Allah in Everyday Life

There is a common image of mystics as reclusive hermits living in isolation. While Sufism does value periods of retreat (khalwa), its ultimate objective is to integrate spirituality into daily life. The Naqshbandi order expresses this with the phrase

khalwat dar anjuman, meaning "solitude in the crowd." True spirituality is not about escaping the world but about finding Allah amidst everyday activities.

The true mystic is not one who shuns responsibility but one who remembers God while caring for family, working, and serving the community. Rumi wrote, "You wander from room to room, hunting for the diamond necklace that is already around your neck." The Divine presence is always with us, and Tasawwuf guides us to polish the heart so we can perceive it clearly—whether in prayer, meditation, or the ordinary moments of life.

Conclusion: The Enduring Call of the Inner Path

When stripped of exotic stereotypes, Sufism stands revealed as the science of the heart. It is profoundly Islamic, offering a way to live in the remembrance of Allah at every moment. Rumi distills this wisdom: "Your task is not to seek for love, but merely to seek and find all the barriers within yourself that you have built against it."

Tasawwuf helps us dismantle these barriers—pride, envy, and distraction—so we can experience true closeness to Allah. In a world filled with noise and distraction, the Sufi path leads back to stillness, reflection, and divine intimacy. It teaches that the ultimate journey is not outward, but inward. This is perhaps the greatest hidden truth: the heart of Islam has always been about the heart itself.

At MMS Global Foundation, we affirm that the wisdom of Tasawwuf provides timeless guidance for reflection, meditation, and reconnecting with Allah in today's busy world.

~Syed N Asad, MD

MMSglobalfoundation.org

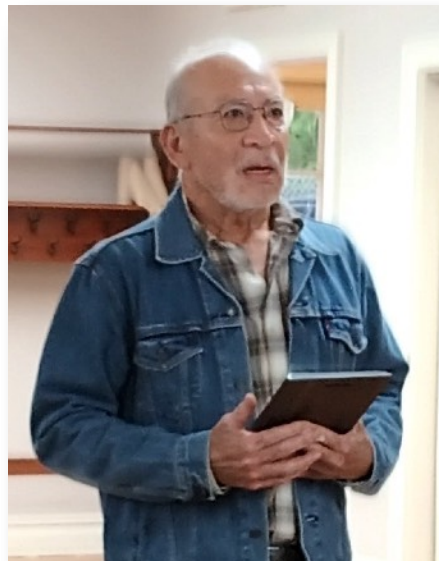
Honoring Rigo and Esperanza Melara

As Rev. Vicky said in our October newsletter, we have had “angels among us!” Rigo and Esperanza Melara have served our Multifaith Campus for almost 20 years. And so on October 12th we gathered together to thank them for their many years of service and commitment to our faith community. Members from each of our three religious denominations were present, and together we acknowledged the tremendous impact that Rigo and Esperanza have made on maintaining and humbly serving the needs of our beautiful church and campus grounds over these many years. We had a sumptuous buffet in their honor, and person after person came up to thank and wish Rigo and Esperanza safe journey as they travel in early December back to their home in El Salvador.

Rev Vicky honored this amazing couple with a beautiful plaque with words inscribed to express our deepest gratitude. While the Melaras will be dearly missed here at Brookville, we’re most happy they are now able to return to their dear country of origin, and to the home which is there, waiting for them.

Thank you, Rigo and Esperanza.

We bid you safe journey, and
“Vaya con Dios!”





Yom Kippur Concluding Service

The New Synagogue of Long Island is so blessed to have Rabbi/Cantor Irene who led inspirational services for both Rosh Hosannah and Yom Kippur.

The Concluding Service included the telling of the Jonah story by the children with Rev. Bill McBride as director and Rev. Enid Kessler as narrator. Also, the blowing of the shofar was done by Gabe Cirker and Roy Weinberger.

Thank you to Seth Cirker and Steven Schombs for being our Zoom masters for all the services. May our names be inscribed for another year in the book of life!



The Brookville Multifaith Campus Food Drive is off to a great start!

Thank you to those who already donated food and money, but the need is great!

A list of suggested items is on the next page. You can drop off food in the Fellowship Hall, or donate funds through Venmo or Givebutter, or mail a check to Brookville Church, 2 Brookville Rd. Glen Head, NY 11545

Venmo

@Brookville-Church (7478)



Givebutter

<https://givebutter.com/Sh1iYB>





Brookville Multifaith Campus

cordially invites you to our annual

Multifaith Thanksgiving Celebration



Sunday, Nov. 23
2 PM

**Brookville Multifaith Campus sponsored,
Community -wide Food Drive
October 20 - November 23, 2025**

All donations will be delivered to
The North Shore Soup Kitchen
Continental Place, Glen Cove
(northshoresoupkitchen.org)

Donation collection boxes will be located
in the Brookville Fellowship Hall

****ALL CANS should be of the 'flip top'
variety if possible ****

No expired food, please.

Needed:

**Rice, pasta, soups, dry cereal, peanut
butter, jelly, tuna, canned chili and
other canned goods,**

Handmade or store bought hats,
scarves, mittens for adults and children
also gratefully accepted.

3 ways to RSVP and sign up to bring a dish

- Click the link at brookvillemultifaithcampus.org
- Email brookvillemfc@gmail.com
- Scan this QR code:



www.brookvillemultifaithcampus.org

SYNAGOGUE OF THE MONTH SHABBAT SERVICE 5786

The New Synagogue of Long Island
The Synagogue for Spiritual Judaism
Rabbi Irene Failenbogen

Synagogue of the Month Virtual Shabbat Service at 7:00 PM

Please join us on Friday, November 7, 2025

[Zoom Shabbat Service](#)
[Shabbat Service Booklet](#)

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

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.

To make an online donation, please [click here](#)
To print the form and mail it to us, please [click here](#)

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

Kindly mail your donation to:
The New Synagogue of Long Island
10 Cuttermill Road, Suite 302
Great Neck, NY 11021



Death Cafe'

Join us at
11:30 AM
Sundays

Nov. 9
Dec. 21

It's a space where people can come together to talk openly about death and dying, without judgement or any agenda.

What is Death Cafe'?

Brookville Multifaith Campus
2 Brookville Rd. Glen Head, NY 11545
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Additional dates listed at:
<https://www.brookvillemultifaithcampus.org/calendar>

The Interfaith Community of Long Island

will hold classes

**11:00 AM on
Sundays:**

Nov. 16
Dec. 7
Dec. 21 (party)
Jan. 11
Jan. 25
Feb. 8
March 15
April 19
May 17
June 7 (picnic)



STAY INFORMED

Please check your email for updates.

If you would like to be added to our email distribution list, please email ifcoflongisland@gmail.com

Learn more about the classes at interfaithli.org/



Online BIBLE STUDY

Brookville Multifaith Campus, and beyond...

To receive the Zoom link, email
brookvillechurch@gmail.com

Discussing the book of Ephesians

**Mondays
6-7 PM**

Beginning
Sept. 15



Please join us at
Brookville Church every
Sunday at 10 AM for our
Worship Celebration

Come in person
or on Zoom



For a zoom link, email
brookvillechurch@gmail.com



Muslim Reform Movement Organization

**Virtual Quran Study
every other Sunday, 2:30 - 4:30 PM
All are welcome!**

For Zoom link, please email muslimreform@hotmail.com

BRAG BOX

Lorrie Latzen, Jasia Mirza and another friend attended the Interfaith Institute of Long Island's 10 Anniversary Award Ceremony.



Congratulations to William Kelleher who led BSA troop 482 in his Eagle Project, the re-beautification of the Garden and Fountain of Remembrance at Centennial Gardens in Floral Park,

Despite starting in heavy rain, the project continued without a hitch. For seven hours, William and volunteers removed weeds, dead bushes, and even a tree. They planted a mix of plants and bushes, and mulched and composted the gardens. They power-washed the fountain, and added solar lights around it as well. The Centennial Gardens was very grateful for the project. William would like to thank everyone who donated to this project.





The Next Chapter, continued...

When the family got older there were other attractions at church camps which often kept us away from the beach, but no one objected because there were more young people to be with. The various camps were interesting and run by different churches, but all children were welcome. The problem became evident when we parents were busy all summer shuttling kids to different camps to meet different week's schedules. About three years into this it was necessary to change that stuff...only the kids had fun, not us.

When our granddaughter, Rachel, was in third grade she befriended a classmate and when there was an after-school project, Samantha (Sam) was invited to come over after school to work on it. Eventually Sam came to live with us, and now with BJ, as she completes her education to be a nurse. She calls us Grandpa and Grandma filling us with joy. Marie and Sam have the same birthday.

Somewhere in those years we decided an exchange student would be an interesting experience and Kicki Westerstahl came from Sweden came and went to school as a Senior where Paul (son #2) was a Junior. We made a family trip to Disney World with her. Kicki graduated from the Westbury High School and was immensely proud to wear a cap and gown because Sweden did not have high school graduations. Following up on that we went to Sweden with Marie and then her family visited us twice.

While Kicki was with us there was another Swedish exchange girl, a friend of Kicki's, staying in the Bronx. There were some difficulties during that exchange so we were asked if we could pick up Anna and have her join us for awhile until a new location could be made. Another year there was a Swedish boy whose Exchange Home wasn't ready

for him and we were asked to take him in for a month or so. Our three boys were scheduled to visit their grandparents in Minnesota so Anders went too. He had a great time in the Midwest.

About the last exchange was another short visit during the summer when Djirke (pronounced Dy-ur-ki) came from Germany and a scheduling snafu had cast him adrift. We were asked to welcome him until an Exchange Home for the school year could be arranged. He was BJ's (son #3) age so they got along well. That visit gave us a chance to take the two boys to Red Lodge, Montana where we also spent two days in Yellowstone Park and saw a rodeo in Casper, Wyoming. We had packed a lunch for the first day in the Park and while sitting at a table on the roadside a huge moose came by on its way into the forest.

Some of our happiest memories are connected to the Exchange Students and their families. But those stories just caused us to do similar welcomings for Business Interns from France who came for six months to our US distribution warehouse. They were fifth year college seniors who had to have an International Internship for their Business degree. Many of them passed through our home and two stayed for the whole six months and continue to connect with us with visits, as recently as earlier this month.

If you want to change your life and your family's by welcoming young people who can give you as much joy as I have mentioned here just ask Google for Exchange Student Programs in your area. You will not be sorry.

~Branch Worsham. BEAT NAVY!