

Brookville

Multifaith Campus

NEWS



Room for All
An Open and Affirming
Campus to the
LGBTQIA+ community.

One house, many faiths, endless opportunities for growth!

May
2024

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

516-626-0414 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 Scott Matous
rabbiyamatous@hushmail.com



Cantor Irene
Failenbogen
irenetunes@aol.com

Muslim Reform Movement Organization. MRMO.org muslimreform@hotmail.com



Imam Sultan
Abdulhameed Co-Founder
& Teacher
muslimreform@hotmail.com



Dr. Syed Asad
Co-Founder
doctorsasad@gmail.com

The Interfaith Community of Long Island

ifcoflongisland@gmail.com Interfaithli.org



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



Rev. Enid Kessler
Spiritual Advisor
interfaith4you@gmail.com

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 Minor Holiday of Lag B'omer

Now that we have celebrated the deliverance and freedom of Passover, we look forward to our next major holiday of Shavuot (the anniversary of when we received the Torah at Mt. Sinai). There is, however, a spiritual observance called “counting the omer” that connects the holidays of Passover and Shavuot and also includes a minor holiday called Lag B'omer. On the first day of Passover, we start counting the omer each day for a seven week period ending on Shavuot, 49 days later.

An omer is a measurement of grain equaling approximately 2 ½ quarts that was brought to the Temple as an offering. Today, we symbolically count the omer as an offering of our words in prayer. A mystical interpretation is that counting the omer is a time of spiritual cleansing and preparation for receiving the Torah on Shavuot. The days and weeks of counting represent a time of contemplation leading to purity of mind and soul, where we rid ourselves of our negative traits.

The Talmud teaches that counting the omer started after a plague that killed thousands of Rabbi Akiva's students because they did not treat one another with respect. The omer offering and counting was a way to mourn the memory of the students who died as severe punishment. Also, according to tradition, the plague ceased on Lag B'omer (which literally means the 33rd day of the Omer). As a result, Lag B'omer became a festive and celebratory day that interrupts the sadness of the Omer period.

A more mystical tradition for the holiday relates to one of Rabbi Akiva's few disciples who survived the plague, named Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, who died on Lag B'omer. As one of the few surviving rabbi's from the plague, he and his son went into hiding for 12 years where they continued to study Torah and pray. Afterwards, they defied the Roman rulers of the day by emerging and openly teaching the Torah to new students. Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai is also credited with writing the main Kabbalistic text, the Zohar.

On Lag B'omer, some Jewish communities light bonfires, dance, and sing kabbalistic hymns celebrating the teachings (“light”) that Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai brought into the world. This is also considered an auspicious time for wedding ceremonies, planting trees in Israel, and the custom of having first haircuts for three-year-old boys (called an upsherin). Lastly, there is a teaching that Lag B'omer is the first day when manna appeared in the wilderness, during the Exodus, to feed the Israelites.

May we all take a moment to help bring the “light” of God into the world by offering our words of prayer, contemplating our negative traits, dancing and singing blessings, and/or celebrating at a wedding as we strive for purity of mind and soul. With love,

~ *Rabbi Scott Matous*

Thank you to Rigo, our Sexton, for putting up the Coexist Craft & Collectibles Fair sign for all to see!



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 7 PM

Please join us on **Friday, May 10, 2024**

All are welcome!

We have no membership dues or fees, but we do rely on your support and commitment! Please give as generously as you can. Your contributions are the lifeblood of The New Synagogue of Long Island.

You can help us keep alive our inspiring teachings of Spiritual Judaism.

Use these links below:

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

[Donate online](#) [Zoom Invitation](#)

[Shabbat Service Booklet](#)

[Synagogue of the Month](#)

Email: newsynagogue.li@gmail.com

Website: 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 study,
please send an email to
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*"



Stay informed about the Interfaith
Community of Long Island (IFC):

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/>

[interfaithcommunityli/](https://www.instagram.com/interfaithcommunityli/)

Upcoming IFC Events!

Sunday 5/12

11 AM, Interfaith religious education
classes

12 PM, Identity & Transitions

Commencement - reception
to follow in Fellowship Hall

On Sunday, April 21st, the New Synagogue of L.I. along with the Interfaith Community of L.I.(IFCLI) had our first ever - kid-friendly Passover Seder learning experience. This replaced the IFCLI's April classes.

We completed a short seder with readings and singing by both the kids and adults and our whole multifaith campus was invited to participate!

Thank you to Cantor Irene and Rev. Bill who led us.



On April 10th, the Muslim Reform Movement Organization celebrated Eid al-Fitr, commemorating the end of Ramadan with prayers and food to break the fast.



Prayer Perspectives

Recently I was asked to give a sermon to a gathering of Christians and the topic was prayer. In preparation, I wanted to get some additional insight, so I reached out to two of our campus faith leaders to get their perspectives.

When I called Cantor Irene Failenbogen to ask about her thoughts on prayer from a Jewish perspective, her first question to me was "Well, have you got about a week for the answer?" She spoke to me about having direct access to God through prayer, the importance of both communal and individual prayer, starting the day with prayer, and special prayers for specific life events. She talked about the prayer called the Shema, which is also a prayer that Jesus prayed.

Imam Sultan Abdulhameed said that prayer is the basis of recognizing that God is with you, and it is central to Islam. He said that it is speaking to God and listening for God's response. There are group prayer times and individual prayer. He said people can pray on their own, but there is more strength in prayer that has more people involved. And he

stressed the importance of understanding the words of a prayer and gave this quote from the Quran: *"There is calamity for those who are praying who are absent-minded in their prayer."*

From a Christian perspective, I already knew how deeply important prayer is in worship and in daily life, as well as the wide diversity of ways that it is practiced.

It occurred to me that with so many things that can divide people, the similarity of prayer is striking, not necessarily how we pray, but its universality in the human condition.

I am grateful to this campus that it gives me access to such a wide variety of points of view. And it gave me the ability to quote the Quran to a group of Christians who would probably never have heard it!



Peace, Salaam, Shalom

~ *Linda Hees*, Campus Administrative Assistant

BRAG BOX



On Saturday, April 27th, at The Makor Center on 39th Street in New York City, Irene Failenbogen and husband Bill McBride performed, to a packed house, their own original love story of a Jewish Cantor and a Catholic Priest. The script was written by Bill and the music by Irene. Irene is the Cantor of the New Synagogue of L.I. on our campus and together they are the Co-Directors of Education for the Interfaith Community of L.I., also housed on our multifaith campus. Their son, Michael was Director and he along with his younger brother, Nathan performed in the closing number, along with their parents.

We are so blessed to have Bill and Irene as clergy on our multifaith campus!



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

Coexist Craft & Collectibles Fair

at the
Brookville Multifaith Campus

Bake sale

Brookville Reformed Church,
2 Brookville Rd., Bkvl 11545

Raffles

Sat June 8, '24
10am - 3pm

Second hand
Treasures

Vendors Wanted
Contact:
516-695-1123
LMDenison24@gmail.com
[\(click to email\)](#)



THE INTERFAITH INSTITUTE

The Interfaith Institute of Long Island (IFI)

Phone: (551) 234-1213

Email: Faroquekhan@outlook.com

www.interfaithny.com

What do you do when you are a newbie and your boss is doing something wrong?



Moderator:

Arthur Dobrin

Professor Emeritus of University Studies, Hofstra University
Leader Emeritus, Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island
Board Member Interfaith Institute of LI



Bishop Dr. Danilo Archbold Sr. Is the founder and Senior Pastor of New Jerusalem Cathedral located in Elmont N.Y. He has been in Ministry for the past 50 years and active, on a National and International level overseeing several hundred Churches worldwide



Dr Anuja Shah is an Internist in Mineola, graduated from Stony Brook Health Sciences Center School of Medicine, she is a practicing Jain and a Board member of Interfaith Institute of LI



Joseph Renna, a resident of East Meadow, a retired math teacher and an attorney, has been a member of the Baha'i Faith for over 50 years

Registration:

Email: Faroquekhan@outlook.com

Text: 551-234-1213

**Brookville Multi Faith Campus
2 Brookville Road, Glen Head, NY 11545**

Date: Sunday May 5th 2024

Time: 2:30 to 4pm

[Click here to join by Zoom](#)

www.brookvillemultifaithcampus.org

The Next Chapter



Heading into this month there was an email sent by Rev. Bill McBride; it was similar to four others that he wrote earlier about his book: Happiness In The Long Run. It is an easy read with usually six pages to a chapter. The pages are an interesting collection of his own

life episodes with people and places he has held close to his heart. No doubt some of the tales have been parts of sermons, but he has put them together this time in a book. Reading it is almost like hearing Bill tell the stories because Bill is a story teller. His sermons are often a story and the conclusion will have a message.

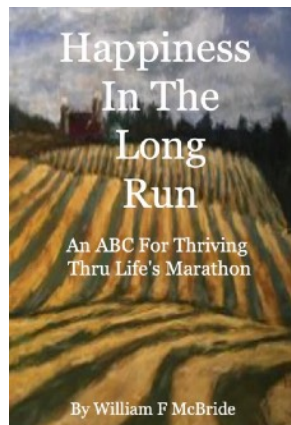
His episodes have a similar format, but there is nothing similar about the content. He will take you into a hospital room, often his mother's kitchen, a family home in Ireland for tea with Great Aunt Brigid (McBride of course), or another hospital room or an episode where a person's life is ending and touching Bill's heart mightily. He writes poems, includes words from songs and a beautiful limerick (also a city in Ireland) that honors Aunt Brigid.

Bill's book doesn't gloss over the word Marathon. He alludes to its difficulty, demands and disappointments. They are all parts of life and most readers will understand what he is telling them. The word marathoner is defined first as a person who competes in a foot race called a marathon and especially those who finish the race.

The connections of a life lived and a race run can be synonymous. Finishing a marathon means running 26+ miles and that includes several weeks of training (or less and that is foolish) and then the race itself -- it is grueling. There are elitists who contend that just finishing is not worthy of the title, that a runner must compete - against other runners, the clock, and finishing while still running. I believe anyone who finishes a marathon even after run-walking for eight hours has earned the right to be

called a marathoner- perhaps with an asterisk. Bill's ABC for Thriving Thru Life's Marathon gives credit for living your life as well as you can -- to the end, finishing against whatever is trying to hold you back.

The email said the session was about Episode 5 and would be about his Dad. I decided to read that chapter again because 1. I didn't remember it and 2. I wanted to reflect on my Dad and how I would feel about him again. It was worthwhile time spent. Bill and I have the same awe and respect for the parent who was required to be mature and a guide to our own maturity.



Bill and I became friends almost instantly because we were marathoners who competed when we ran. Runners friendships are bonded by the efforts of training and competing. In our case I began running when I was twice the age as when Bill ran. There was a difference in our race results which we had to deal with on a personal level but it never affected the friendship.

When the end of each month arrives it is time to write another of The Next Chapters. It takes a couple of pre-weekend days to get something in my head that will help make the writing juices flow. Nothing was working in April until Bill's email arrived.

You can read about Bill's Dad in his book and I will tell you about my Dad.

My Dad was was born in South Dakota into a family of two sisters, his Mother and Dad. He was 2 - 4 years old when his Mother died. The sisters were sent west to live with relatives and my Dad was taken into Minnesota where the two lived on a farm. It was probably a complete farm when they moved in -- a house, a barn, a shed for the sheep, a pig pen and a chicken coop. It never got larger than the twelve stalls for the cows.

Continued next page...

The Next Chapter

Dad did not finish high school, but did work on the farm. I don't know how he met my Mother because she lived in another town, twelve miles away. He told me he made that walk several times without a car. Many years later when we were there, about 1986 because Dad died, I ran that walk he took. It was a sentimental thing, that run; it still is memorable for me.

My brother and I were in high school and Dad would need help loading his truck with wood at a sawmill. When we could help him, he started about 4 AM (he learned that early rising on his Dad's farm). With our help, those days were worth two days of pay. Saturdays and any school holiday were bonus days for Dad. That meant, in Minnesota, working outside in the winter. My brother and I realized in the beginning that we were not wealthy. Until a strange thing happened. Dad was able to get a new truck and take longer trips and his early start would get him back in time to load for another trip the next day. There were no more Saturdays in the woods because that was the day the truck was taken care of before being loaded for Monday's trip. Then the company promoted him to be the Yard Foreman and he and the crew organized the wood inventory he used to haul in from the woods.

When I went to the Military Academy one long time rule was Plebes (first year students) could not go home for Christmas so my folks and brother drove east to be with me. My four years as a cadet were so very special for them. After graduation I was home briefly before my first duty station. I heard Dad tell a friend, "My son makes more than me already," His lessons of hard work and thrift never ended.

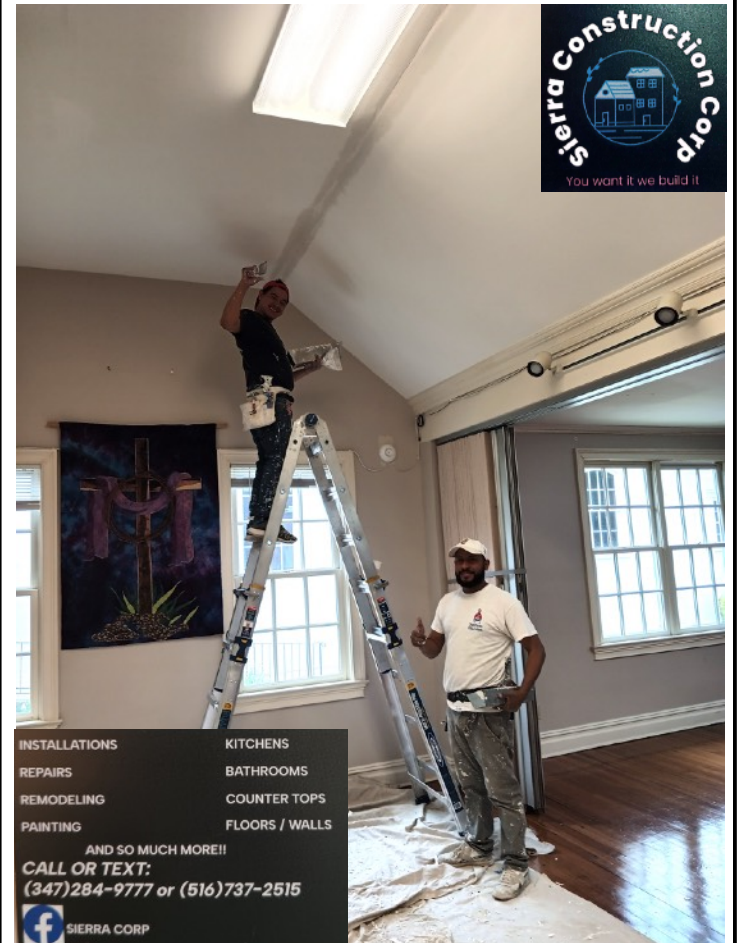
Eventually Dad retired from the company and did what he enjoyed most -- being outside in the woods. Cutting trees that would thin a forest to grow better. What he cut he sold as firewood. He was still working in the woods when he died. He

was a Man of Minnesota; I was never more than a son of the state. But like Dad, I am still doing what I like, still working.

If you are interested in getting Rev. Bill's book, contact him at williamfmcbride1954@gmail.com or 646-744-7477.

~Branch Worsham


Thanks to Diego and Edgar from Sierra Construction Corp for repairs to the ceiling in the Fellowship Hall and in the kitchen.



Sierra Construction Corp
You want it we build it

INSTALLATIONS	KITCHENS
REPAIRS	BATHROOMS
REMODELING	COUNTER TOPS
PAINTING	FLOORS / WALLS

AND SO MUCH MORE!!
CALL OR TEXT:
(347)284-9777 or (516)737-2515

 SIERRA CORP