

Brookville

Multifaith Campus

NEWS



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

November
2023

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

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

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The Interfaith Community of Long Island

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Rev. William McBride &
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Rev. Enid Kessler
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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.

Full of Thankfulness

*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and **overflowing with thankfulness.***

~ Colossians 2:6,7

November is the month our country celebrates Thanksgiving. It is a time to stop and be thankful for what we have - to gather for a day with family and friends and relish in those relationships; to thank God for the goodness in our lives.

Thanksgiving has always been my favorite holiday, maybe because it is a day where I get to set aside the troubles of the world and look at the good and to offer my thanks.

Being thankful isn't always an easy thing to do, especially with so much going on in our world right now that is not good. We can be tempted to lose sight of our relationship with God and to question God's goodness and the goodness of humanity.

When the Apostle Paul wrote his letter to the church in Colossi he told them to be strengthened in the faith by remaining rooted in Christ, which gives us the ability as Christians to rise above circumstances and allow our thankfulness to overflow.

Paul, who also wrote a letter to the church in Philippi did so while he was in jail for his faith and yet Paul's letter is one of joy. If you read the book of Philippians you will see time and again that Paul says that he is filled with joy even in the midst of suffering.

It takes discipline to develop an attitude of joy and thanksgiving when we and the world are suffering. But when we stop and look at the good in our lives, it can turn our attitude around.

My friend, Cantor Irene Failenbogen wrote a song entitled "Full of Thankfulness" which she often sings at our annual Multifaith Thanksgiving

Celebration. I am full of thankfulness for our multifaith campus. We are a microcosm of how people of other faiths can come together to shine a light into the world. Those who call our campus home are from the three Abrahamic faiths - Jews, Christians and Muslims. I am so thankful that despite what is happening in the Middle East, we have maintained our relationships with each other and continue to provide a safe space to worship and be together.

Our annual Multifaith Thanksgiving Celebration on November 12 at 2 p.m. will be an important time for us to be together this year and to continue to celebrate our connections to one another.

I am full of thankfulness for all of you!

~ *Rev. Vicky*



Thanksgiving: A Jewish Perspective

Every year, on the fourth Thursday of November, friends and families all gather as one to celebrate Thanksgiving. We think back onto the previous year and give thanks for all the good that has happened and for the positive people in our lives. It is also a day where people go out and do good deeds for the less fortunate and open their doors to others. We also sit down and have a massive meal together. These actions and traditions of Thanksgiving strongly relate to the ideals of Judaism.

Judaism is literally built upon gratitude. The original Hebrew word for Jew, *Yehudi*, is a form of the Hebrew word for thank you – *todah*. In other words, Judaism means “the path of gratitude.” Instead of calling ourselves “the people of the book,” we more accurately could call ourselves “the grateful people,” “the people of the thank you.”

Judaism overflows with opportunities to say thank you. Daily Jewish prayer opens with *Modeh/Modah Ani* – a thank you for the gift of another day. From the words we say upon arising – “*Modeh ani l'fanecha*” “I give thanks to You (for compassionately restoring my soul and giving me another day of life)” - to the daily multitude of blessings and prayers in our worship services, our tradition teaches us that showing gratitude is part of our way of life. Every day brings ample opportunities for acts of mindfulness and thanksgiving that can transform our lives and repair the world. Each blessing, and there are hundreds of them in Judaism, is a fresh opportunity to say thank you.

Probably the most well-known Jewish gratitude practice is singing *Dayenu* at the Passover Seder. The word *Dayenu* literally means “it would have been enough for us.” In other words, Thank you. But when you look at the actual words, you’ll see that *Dayenu* is gratitude with a twist: “*If G-d had split the sea for us but had not taken us through it on dry land, Dayenu – it would have been good enough for us.*” In what way would it have been enough for us if the sea had split but we never got to cross over?

Dayenu actually teaches us two things about gratitude: First, *Dayenu* doesn’t just say, “G-d thank

you for taking us out of Egypt.” *Dayenu* divides up the Exodus into fifteen steps and offers gratitude for each one. When expressing gratitude, don’t just offer a blanket generalized “thank you.” Spell out the details. It’s in the specifics that a thank you has real power. Second, don’t wait for the problem to be fully taken care of in order to express appreciation. Each small step along the way is worthy of being appreciated.

Scientists have discovered all sorts of positive outcomes from practicing gratitude: improved physical health and immunity against disease, fewer expressions of toxic emotions such as resentment, frustration and regret, better sleep, more self-respect, more satisfying relationships, and enhanced resilience. When we show gratitude, we deepen our relationships with each other, we feel better and more empowered about our possibilities, and more hopeful about the future.



Thanksgiving offers us a chance to replenish ourselves with a sense of gratitude, well-being, and connection. This is at the heart of Jewish life and practice. A grateful perspective is critical to sustain our positive attitude - to energize, to heal, and to bring hope. Now, more than

ever, this Thanksgiving let us recognize the good (*hakarat hatov*) and say, “Thank You.” (*Todah Rabah!*)

Recite the words of the *Shehechyanu* prayer this Thanksgiving as you sit around the table with your loved ones. Express your gratitude to the G-d of Life who enables us to reach this beautiful day:

Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu, Melech ha'olam, shehechyanu v'kiyemanu v'higyanu laz'man hazeh.
Blessed be G-d, the Eternal Source of all life, for keeping us alive, for sustaining us, and for bringing us to this joyous season!

Gratitude is the foundation of who we are: The People of the Thank You.

Happy Thanksgiving to All!

Love and Blessings, *Rabbi Scott Matous*

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

Recognizing Primordial Goodness in People

We must recognize and foster the goodness inherent in every human being to bring about peace and harmony in a world divided by religious, cultural, and ideological differences. The Quran refers to this concept when it states, "So direct your face toward religion, inclining to truth. Adhere to the *fitrah* of God upon which He has created [all] people" (Quran 30:30). The Arabic word *fitrah* refers to the innate, natural disposition with which God has created all human beings.

That is, humans are created with an innate predisposition toward goodness and truth. Understanding and embracing this concept can be a powerful tool for promoting peace and harmony. Belief that all people possess innate goodness (*fitrah*) helps us to recognize dignity and worth of every human being. Those who acknowledge this, treat others with respect, compassion, and fairness.

Understanding that all humans share this primordial goodness can help us bridge divides and promote unity regardless of differences in cultural or religious background.

American psychologist Abraham Maslow (1908-1970) defined a hierarchy of human needs. At the top of this hierarchy is self-actualization,

representing the realization of one's full potential. This implies that individuals naturally aspire to be the best versions of themselves. Maslow emphasizes that pursuing goodness and self-improvement is not a luxury but an essential human need. It is a testament to our inherent worth that we seek to transcend mere survival and strive for personal growth, creativity, and self-fulfillment.

Other modern thinkers such as Carl Rogers and Karen Horney have also asserted that within us there is a wellspring of goodness and potential. Nurturing and harnessing this inherent goodness can lead to personal fulfillment, greater societal well-being, and a more compassionate and harmonious world.

Embracing belief in primordial goodness encourages tolerance and acceptance of differences. When we see the goodness within each person, we are more likely to look beyond external distinctions and engage with others in a spirit of mutual respect.

When disputes and conflicts arise, the belief in primordial goodness can help us remember that under disagreements and misunderstandings, there is a shared goodness and search for truth which we need to harness to resolve conflicts.

A deep belief in our common primordial human goodness is the basis of successful interfaith dialogue and cooperation. It helps us recognize that we are all children of the same God. We can appreciate the excellence inherent in all faith traditions, look for a deeper understanding of different beliefs and collaborate in pursuing common good.

Verse 30:30 of the Quran invites us to contemplate the inherent goodness within each individual and encourages recognition of our common *fitrah*, the natural disposition inclined toward righteousness. This verse gives guidance for understanding human nature, unity among diverse communities, respect for human dignity, ethical conduct, personal responsibility, and interfaith cooperation. By embracing the wisdom of the Quran, verse 30:30, we can cultivate a more harmonious and compassionate society guided by the recognition of the inherent goodness of humanity as a gift from our Creator.

~ Syed Asad



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"



As we continue to move forward with our programming for this year, I find myself, once again, reflecting on how thankful I am that we have our

Interfaith Community of L.I. family. At our most recent parent's meeting while our children were in class, I sat surrounded by others who were just like me - married to a person of a different religious faith, starting a family and looking for ways to create a supportive and successful religious environment for all involved. All of that, coupled with the challenges of navigating the sometimes tumultuous waters of family acceptance - or resistance.

I am thankful that our children have each other. These kids are of many different faiths and yet, come together, once or twice a month, and discuss ways in which the different faiths also have common ground.

Thankful

Our kids give me hope for a future of peace and acceptance.

I am thankful for an event coming up in a few weeks: the Multifaith Thanksgiving Celebration. At this event, we truly come together as a community.

First, by worshiping together in our shared sanctuary, and then by heading over to Fellowship Hall to enjoy pie, coffee and conversation with each other.



Many of us invite family and friends to join us and I am thankful for that feeling of unity and belonging that is the true spirit of the day.

As we move forward into this upcoming holiday season, I am thankful for the Interfaith Community of Long Island giving me and my family a place of love, support, acceptance and fellowship.

~ *Christine Manke*, Communications Chair

How can I stay informed regarding the Interfaith Community?

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ifcli>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/interfaithcommunityli/>

Registration for membership & classes is still open. **Our next religious education class is scheduled for Sunday, November 19th at 11am.**

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>

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

Multifaith Thanksgiving Celebration

Sunday, November 12, 2023

2 PM

Come celebrate with prayers, songs and scriptures from our different faith traditions.

Pie and coffee to follow.

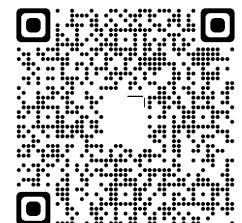


Hybrid

Join us in person: 2 Brookville Rd. Glen Head, NY 11545
or Email brookvillemfc@gmail.com for the Zoom link

[**Click here to RSVP**](#)

RSVP:





THE INTERFAITH INSTITUTE

The Interfaith Institute of Long Island (IFI)

Phone: (551) 234-1213

Email: Faroquekhan@outlook.com

www.interfaithny.com

When is it Right to Break the Rules?



Rev. Tim TenClay

Rev. TenClay earned a Masters of Divinity, and a Doctorate of Ministry in Worship and Spirituality from Northern Theological Seminary in Illinois. He is an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Reformed Church in America and has served churches in Michigan, New York, and Italy. Now is a board member of the Labyrinth Society and former president of an NGO focused on providing safety, support, and resources for survivors of trafficking. While in Italy, he served as the bilingual pastor of multi-lingual, multi-ethnic congregations comprised of local Italians, immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and former slaves.



Mufti Mohammad Farhan

Mufti Farhan received a bachelor's degree in Arabic and Islamic Sciences, a Masters in Islamic Theology, and a PhD in Islamic Jurisprudence and Law from Binoria International University, Pakistan. He is the Executive Director of Islamic Center of Long Island (ICLI) Westbury, NY, spiritual advisor for Islamic Affairs for Muslims on Long Island, Inc. (Masjid Al-Baqi), and a consultant for the Islamic Center of South Shore, Valley Stream, Long Island (Masjid Hamza). He also is the Co-founder & President of a non-for-profit organization for youth called "Children of Adam."



Mr. Arun Ahluwalia

Mr. Ahluwalia is a preacher and General Secretary of United States Chapter of Sant Nirankari Mission, a Socio-Spiritual Movement headquartered in Delhi, India. He is responsible for managing all the spiritual and social activities of the Mission in USA along with other Executive Committee Members. He is a retired executive from a large multi-national financial services company. He graduated in 1970 as a Civil Engineer from Mumbai University in India and emigrated to USA in 1974.

Location: Jericho Public Library,

**One Merry Lane,
Jericho, NY 11753**

Date: Sunday November 12, 2023

Time: 2:00pm to 3:30pm

Registration by:

Email: faroquekhan@outlook.com

Phone: 551-234 1213



Moderator:

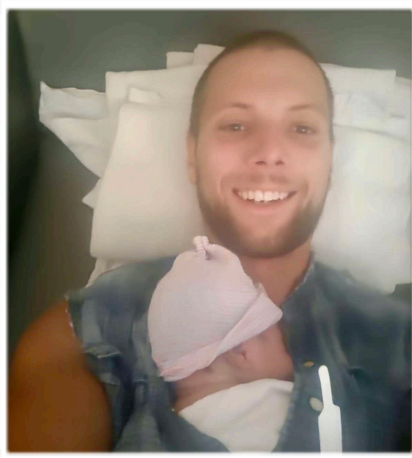
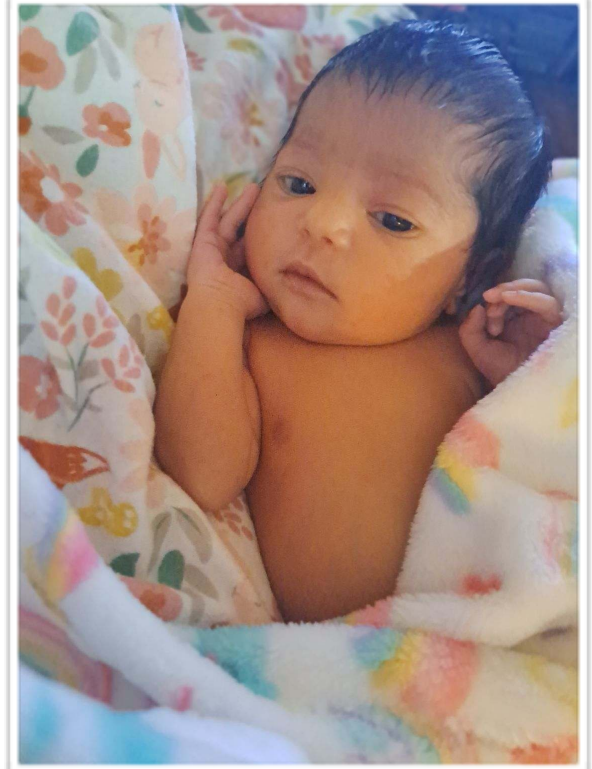
Arthur Dobrin

IFI Board Member

Professor Emeritus of University Studies, Hofstra University

Leader Emeritus, Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island

BRAG BOX



Proud papa, William Denison, with newborn daughter, Maven

Congratulations to Lisa and Dave Denison on the birth of their second grandchild on October 11, 2023 - Maven Rae Denison. We celebrate with them and Maven's parents, Kenya and William.

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

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..!

The Next Chapter



Here I am, Branch Worsham, dedicated writer of a monthly piece meant to entertain and inform. There is one more purpose which a writer can have, but which I seldom have used - to influence; that has never been a goal of this column. To

entertain has often been a dual purposed device - to tell about something I am fond of, such as a dear place or of what I have done. I write hoping to entertain you, but at the same time intentionally entertain myself through renewing a fond memory or recent new experiences and by sharing them with you.

Twenty-two years ago I was injured suffering a broken back at work. This Next Chapter article is not really about that event, but is about the years spent as a parent and the rewards recently enjoyed thanks to my endeavors.

I graduated from West Point in 1958 with a degree of Bachelor of Science and was promoted from Cadet to an Officer in the U.S. Army. That's a worthy title, but the Academy, then and still, acclaims to be the Nation's preeminent teacher of leadership. How to serve and lead became woven into the fabric and soul of most graduates. However, graduation does not end the training. Nearly all of us were assigned to (1.) a military Company and (2.) a Platoon and (3.) as important a teacher as all of the professors in all of the college courses. Every Platoon has a Master Sergeant and it was HIS task to teach ME how to lead the soldiers in OUR Platoon.

This was when the basics of troop leadership were given to us Second Lieutenants by men who had EARNED their title and grade as a MASTER Sergeant. The lessons from my Sergeant were often short, as in, "Lieutenant. Don't." Or first hand, as in, "Lieutenant, I'll show you how." But how he presented it was how a real leader taught what he had to turn over to me. Sometimes the Master

Sergeants had more active duty years than we "Lootenants" had years lived.

The lessons in command were free to take home with us and choose to use - or not - every day all the way. More decisions and challenges came along over time as Nancy presented me with our own troops -- our four children. There were many things I wanted our kids to be and be able to do by giving them my guidance just as my Dad gave me his. The four of them knew Grandpa so they understood his character and where my lessons came from.

My Dad didn't know he was honorable, but he was. Honesty implies a refusal to lie, steal or cheat. Honor suggests an active regard for the standards of ones community or church or even family. Most people, including my Dad attempted to live their lives not trying to deceive others, but with integrity and good behavior. I was confident that as I entered the Academy all of my classmates came in with the same parental background as mine.

I tried to follow in the steps of a Master Sergeant and a Dad while showing the same path to our children. As they got older the challenges they faced were similar to mine and now new young people face their own nemeses. There are always misguided people and unqualified teachers, but I am comfortable believing our nation is safe in the hands of my children, their generation and those that follow them.

Throughout this year of 2023 our now adult children have often told me how they encountered something that challenged them and made them draw from the lessons I had passed on from my teachers. And my brother expressed similar observations and that influenced his desire for a mini reunion with my family.

Continued on the next page

The Next Chapter...continued

The month of October has been one of startling revelations. After my brother and his wife met with us for a week in a mountain resort in Virginia they paid for everyone's accommodations. He said we all came from a good family and were worthy of that recognition.

During that week I went, as usual, to the gym each morning, but the rigors seems less rewarding and more uncomfortable. By the end of October I was suffering from the return of twenty-two year old pains. The nerves in my back have been making havoc with my right side - the knees, thighs, groin and lower back. Trips to two clinics and two hospital emergency rooms filled the rest of the month. A doctor will be tending to a special injection in my spine in November in hope of a fix.

It is also comforting to know that the Prayer Group has me in their thoughts and prayers. It is interesting that now, being on the receiving side of prayers I can attest to feeling, even knowing, their presence. I have a sense of - an understanding of - the prayers and concerns for me; some mornings there is a strong feeling of not being alone. The Prayer Group intercedes for me when I need more help and strength!

Our very adult children have decided to step up and visit us in New Jersey. Each weekend one of them as a couple or a family have been coming to do our shopping, chores and visiting. There are frequent tales in the media about encouraging visits to elderly family, shut ins and sick ones. Nancy and I

currently have those conditions and are able to thank the kids and praise God for His gift of devoted children. What a joy they have given the months of October and now November. What a fulfillment of being a parent.

~ Branch Worsham.

BEAT NAVY!

Nassau-Suffolk Classis
Women's Retreat
 Come celebrate 5 decades
 of serving together
 Be nourished with food,
 fellowship, worship, and stories

November 18, 2023
 at Parkway Community Church
 (95 Stewart Ave, Hicksville)
 9am-1:30pm

RSVP by Nov. 4 to revdfield@gmail.com