Brookville Multifaith Campus



A Pathway to Mutual **Understanding**

NEWS

April 2022

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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. Together we promote cross cultural understanding, peace building, and a strong commitment to service. Each group maintains its own religious identity but fosters an open environment for learning, celebrating and honoring each distinct religion.



Some thoughts from campus leaders



Rev. Vickv Eastland

Why Christians Celebrate Holy Week and Easter

In the Christian calendar, the week before Easter begins with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We call it Palm

Sunday because people cheered and laid palm branches down as Jesus entered the city on a lowly donkey. The Israelites thought Jesus was coming to save them from Roman oppression. They were looking for a political leader who would overthrow the government. They had no idea that Jesus was actually riding toward his death. This year, Palm Sunday is April 10 and our 10:00 a.m. worship will be led with the help of our campus children and youth.

We call the week before Easter, Holy Week or Passion Week; holy because it reference's God's mighty acts during the week and passion because the Greek verb for passion, pascho, in the New Testament means "to suffer." This was the hardest week of Jesus' life because he knew the suffering he would have to endure.

Continued on page 3

Rabbi Stuart Paris, HaKohen

Passover

Passover (*Pesach* in Hebrew) is known as the "Holiday of Freedom." It commemorates the emancipation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt. The eight-day festival of Passover is celebrated in the early spring, from the 15th through the 22nd of the Hebrew month of Nissan, which usually falls sometime in March or April. (This year it

corresponded to April 15th – April 23rd.) Passover is regarded as the "birth" of the Jewish nation. The lessons of struggle and identity continue to form the basis of Jewish consciousness today.

The holiday begins with a *Seder* (which means "Order"), a festive meal, and is designed to give each person the experience of "going from slavery unto freedom." We read from the *Haggadah*, the special book which tells the Exodus story and recounts the Ten Plagues. We eat foods which are symbolic of slavery: matzah as the bread of affliction, salt water as the tears of oppression, bitter herbs as the harshness of slavery. We recline in our chairs to express our freedom. The youngest child asks Four Questions. We recite the prayer of thanksgiving and praise and end the Seder with the hope of "Next Year in Jerusalem!" By following the rituals and traditions of Passover, we have the ability to relive and experience the true freedom that our ancestors gained.

Continued on page 4

Christine Mankes

Spring is in the Air!

It's exciting to be back in person and have so many fun spring events to look forward to! and more! Check our website for more information.

Our calendar is filled with events such as children's classes, youth-led services, parent events

Our 8th graders in the Identity and Transition class recently participated in a retreat at the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County. The goal of the retreat was to teach our kids about the Holocaust and the dangers of all manifestations of intolerance. Kids were shown ways to promote resistance to prejudice and respect for every human being.

Continued on page 6



Why Christians Celebrate Holy Week and Easter ... continued from page 2

On Monday, Jesus cleansed the Temple Court which was being used as a market place but was actually supposed to be a place designated for non-Jews to worship God because they were not allowed in the actual Temple itself. Jesus came into the Temple Court and knocked over the tables that had been wrongfully set up and told everyone who was using the court as a way to profit from the sales of their goods, to "GET OUT!" Jesus' act of cleansing the Temple Court sent a message that God welcomes the worship of all races and ethnicities.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, Jesus taught inside the Temple, having theological dialogues with those gathered. During this time the Sanhedrin, the highest court of justice in ancient Jerusalem, plotted to kill Jesus. He was teaching what the religious leaders believed was heresy, a belief contrary to orthodox religious doctrine.

On Thursday, which Christians call Holy Thursday or Maundy Thursday, Jesus had his last Passover Seder with his disciples. At that dinner he got down on the ground and washed their feet as a symbol of servanthood. This humble act of washing their feet was Jesus' way of modeling to his disciples that they too should serve others. It was also at this meal that The Lord's Supper or Holy Communion was instituted. The word Maundy comes from the Latin word mandatum, meaning commandment. On this night Jesus gave his disciples the commandment to love one another as he had loved them. Jesus told them that the greatest love one can have for another is to lay down their life. Jesus knew that he was about to suffer and die as an act of love. This was the night that Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' closest disciples, was going to betray him by turning him over to the authorities.

Friday, or Good Friday was the day that Jesus was crucified. He went through unimaginable physical pain and humiliation at the hands of soldiers. They beat Jesus with a whip, punched him in the face, spit on him, stripped him of his clothes and shoved a crown of thorns into his brow causing blood to run down his face. Jesus' body was extremely weak after the beatings, but the soldiers made Jesus carry

a wooden cross up a steep hill where he was to be nailed onto it and crucified. They drove the nails into his flesh and bones, through his hands and his feet. During crucifixion a person dies of asphyxiation because they have to pull themselves up for each breath they take. After a while they no longer have the strength to pull themselves up and they die of a lack of oxygen. I've always wondered, why on earth we Christians call this day Good Friday. What could possibly be good about this horrible day? Some scholars suggest that the day is "good" in that it is holy, a day when true love was revealed. Other scholars believe that the phrase is actually a corruption of "God's Friday," that has gotten changed over the decades.

Three days later, the Gospels of the New Testament depict Jesus' Resurrection from the dead. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John (the first four books of the New Testament) are called the Gospels because they share the "good news" of Jesus. The good news is that Jesus did not remain in the grave, but rather conquered death. It is the climax of the Christian story.

Easter Sunday or Resurrection Sunday, is the most important day in the life of the Christian church. It is the time when we celebrate that Jesus' suffering was not in vain. If Jesus could conquer death, then we too could have New Life. It broke the power of sin and death and opened a way for us to be redeemed. This year, Easter is April 17. Join us for our Resurrection Celebration at 10:00 AM. There will be an Easter egg hunt on the front lawn for the children following the service. We hope to see you there!





Passover ...continued from page 2

What better way to overcome the challenges we are facing today than drawing upon the wisdom of our past?

May The Force (of The Seder) Be With You -In Hebrew "Seder" means order, routine. As we recall the miracles of redemption despite slavery and hopelessness, we call out the carefully arranged order of the night. Each step counts. Every act is significant. This past two years have been filled with confusion and chaos. We struggle to know what is normal. Is it normal to send children to school? Is it normal to go to work? Live life with seder, order. Don't lose yourself to a life of mindless havoc. Wake up in the morning and know that you have real purpose. Create a routine. The seder gives us a list of actions we will be taking so that we understand that a goal driven life grants us meaning.

Loneliness Is Toxic - As we recite the story of Passover, we uncover our *matzahs* and say, "Let all who are hungry come and eat. All who are needy come and celebrate." The greatest poverty is poverty of the soul. The Hagaddah is asking us to look around our table. Many people have experienced a sense of loneliness these past two years unlike anything they have ever experienced before. Take a good look around you. Open your heart and reach out to those aching for your love.

The Four Questions Actually Need To Be Answered - After the youngest child asks the Four Questions, there is a tendency for the adults to move swiftly on, eager to delve into the depths of the Haggadah text (or to get to dinner). However, throughout the recitation of the Haggadah, we must continue to engage the children, have them ask more questions and invite them to share their thoughts and ideas. After all, this is their night, as the Torah commands, "And you shall tell your son on that day."



Plug Into the Blessing of Enough - One of the most famous songs of the Hagaddah is "Dayenu" - "Enough!" Observing life through a lens of gratitude creates joy that cannot be taken away when going through tough times. It is a spiritual lens that becomes life changing. We can choose to either dwell on the hardships or we can contemplate the good that has come. An attitude of gratitude is the anchor we hold onto through turbulent times. We can either walk around saying, "This is crazy," or we can focus on the good. Discover the "Blessing of Enough."

With my best wishes for a Happy Passover!

~ Rabbi Stuart A. Paris, HaKohen

Join a

Virtual Passover Seder

Thursday, April 14th at 5 PM

Email newsynagogue.li@gmail.com for more info and to request the Zoom link



NOWRUZ MUBARAK!

Nowruz means "new day" in Farsi and marks the beginning of the spring season. It is considered the Persian New Year. This year, Nowruz was celebrated on March 20th.

The Iranian American Society's Farsi language and Persian culture classes are held in our Fellowship Hall on Saturday mornings. On March 19th they held a Persian New Year Celebration where the students sang and recited things in Farsi they had learned in class. Students, teachers, parents and grandparents all celebrated with music, food and laughter.









Rev. Vicky with Sholeh Sharifi, Director of the Ferdowsi School of Persian language and culture.



Ramadan is a sacred time of year for Muslims. This holy month of fasting began this year on April 1. This religious holiday marks the time when Muhammad received the initial revelations that would become the Quran.

Fasting during the month of Ramadan is one of the Five Pillars that make up the core of Islam, in

addition to the profession of faith (Shahada), prayer five times a day (Salat), giving alms to charity (Zakat), and pilgrimage to Mecca (Haj).

Abstaining from eating and drinking (including water) is practiced from dawn to dusk. This time is devoted to strengthening one's relationship with Allah, increasing prayer, charity, and generosity, and intensifying the study of the Quran.

Over 1.5 billion people celebrate the Muslim holy month of Ramadan every year. Even if you don't celebrate Ramadan yourself, it's polite to know how to wish someone a happy Ramadan.

The most common greeting during Ramadan is Ramadan Mubarak (Rah-ma-dawn Moo-bar-ack). It essentially means "Blessed Ramadan" or "Happy Ramadan."



Spring is in the Air! ...continued from page 2

It was one year ago that our organization moved to a change in leadership, and what a year it has been! Your steering committee has been working hard to create programming and events for children and adults alike. We continue to look to our membership and to those who can contribute their

WE RECOGNIZE PREJUDICE AND HATRED DID NOT END IN 1945.

NOW THAT YOU KNOW, WHICH WILL YOU CHOOSE... TO BE A BYSTANDER OR AN UPSTANDER?

talents, expertise, or simply a willingness to help, even in a small way. The work that you do with us matters. By lending a helping hand, you are not only helping yourself, your spouse and your own family, but also our greater community.

New members are always welcome!

Registration for membership and classes is still open. Please send us a message on our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/ifcli/ or by emailing the steering committee chair, Allison at allison@interfaithli.org





IFCLI Upcoming Events

4/10 - 10 AM Palm Sunday,

4/10 - 11:15 AM Children's Classes

4/14 - 5 PM Virtual Passover Sede

4/15 - Passover begins

4/17 - 10 AM Easter Worship

Easter Egg Hunt following

4/24 - 2 PM Oy, Father! The Musical

5/1 - 11:15 AM Children's Classes

5/14 - Parents Night Out! (More info to follow!)

5/15 - 11:15 AM Children's Classes

5/22 - Identity and Transition

Commencement (Time TBA)





In Memoriam: Sheila Gordon, Interfaith Families Leader

March 8, 2022 by Susan Katz Miller

The interfaith families community movement has lost our most important founder and leader, Sheila Gordon.

Sheila was a passionate visionary. She did more than any other human being to forge the concept of a community providing interfaith education for interfaith children. and then to ensure that idea persisted in the world. She was cocreator of the very first interfaith families community, which became

the Interfaith Community (IFC) in New York City. And then, instead of retiring, she dedicated the past two decades to leading IFC, branching off new interfaith family communities in New Jersey, Long Island [the chapter on Brookville Multifaith Campus], Connecticut, and elsewhere. As a movement, we exist in large part because of Sheila's intellect, energy, and phenomenal dedication. She worked right up through what she knew would be her final months to ensure a legacy that would benefit interfaith families, on into the future.

Founder and Creator

The story of our national movement began in 1987, when a group of parents led by Sheila and Lee Gruzen created an afterschool interfaith education program for their interfaith children on New York's Upper West Side. Lee wrote a book published that same year, Raising Your Jewish/Christian Child: How Interfaith Parents Can Give Children the Best of Both Their Heritages, and Sheila wrote a foreword to the book's second edition, in 2001.

In that same year, Sheila retired from foundation work, and began dedicating all her formidable professional skills to the IFC program. She hired Christian and Jewish seminarians from Union Theological Seminary and Jewish Theological Seminary to co-write an interfaith curriculum for interfaith children, and to coteach in the classrooms. One of her greatest legacies is the generations of ministers and rabbis who understand the importance of interfaith education for interfaith families, because they taught at IFC. And she developed IFC into a template that could be replicated by other communities, providing advice and professional support from her IFC office in the famous "God Box" on Riverside Drive, close by both seminaries.



National Expert

In addition to running IFC and supporting all of its branches (including communities in Boston and Denver at various points), Sheila stood out as the most experienced national leader representing the idea of interfaith education for interfaith families. In 2017, she wrote an academic paper for UNESCO entitled "Interfaith education: A new model for today's interfaith families.

In 2020, when the pandemic challenged the functioning of all our communities (and all communities generally), Sheila joined us on Network of Interfaith Family

Groups zoom calls to strategize, despite her illness. On those calls, she advised couples from around the country on finding and creating interfaith family communities. And in zoom calls with leadership of the NY, Chicago, and DC interfaith families groups in the last year, we strove to ensure that this work, her work, would live on, and receive the national recognition it deserves.

Personally, I have lost my most important interfaith families mentor. It feels daunting, and lonely, to imagine doing this work without her advice and support. Sheila exemplified both the compassion and stubborn determination required for this job. All of my work on interfaith families is only possible because of all of her work. She understood both the frustration and the necessity of engaging with resistant religious institutions. And she understood the satisfaction of going ahead and providing that interfaith education with or without those institutions, and building community around it.

The task was endless, but she never desisted. She led us through narrow places, and her legacy is assured in the myriad ways that interfaith education for interfaith children has taken root. Her memory will be a blessing to thousands of interfaith families today, and into the future.

You can make a donation in memory of Sheila Gordon to support interfaith families through the Interfaith Community.

Journalist Susan Katz Miller is an interfaith families <u>speaker</u>, <u>consultant</u>, and <u>coach</u>, and author of Being Both: Embracing Two Religions in One Interfaith Family (2015), and The Interfaith Family Journal (2019).



WONDERBOX SUNDAY!

Once a month, Brookville Church has Wonderbox Sunday. Our Wonderbox is brought out and our little ones look inside to discover objects that help teach the Bible lesson for the day.

At our last Wonderbox Sunday we learned about the Protestant Reformation which was started by Martin Luther, a German Monk, when he nailed his 95 Thesis on the Wittenberg Church door in 1517. This was a proposition that he hoped would open up debate about his concerns within the Catholic Church. Because of Luther's concerns, others began to question things in the Catholic Church as well and eventually they

> split to become Protestant Christians. It is estimated that there are currently 40,000 different Protestant denominations worldwide.

Brookville Church belongs to two of those denominations: The Reformed Church in America since 1732 rca.org and the United Church of Christ since 2021 ucc.org







Bible Study

Expand Your Faith, **Experience** God's Fire

Zoom, every other **Tuesday** from **6:30-7:30 p.m**.

30 minute video followed by 30 minute discussion facilitated by Branch Worsham To receive link, email brookvillechurch@gmail.com

All faiths are welcome!

Order Easter Flowers

in memory or in honor of someone to grace our sanctuary for Easter and your home after

Please email the church office at by April 10 brookvillechurch@gmail.com with:



- 1. Your name
- 2. How many lilies, tulips, hyacinths and daffodils
- 3. In honor or in memory of...
- 4. Method of payment check, Venmo @Brookville-Church or Givebutter

Plants are \$15 each



Easter Egg Hunt **April 17 @ 11 AM**





Front Lawn of Brookville Church 2 Brookville Road Glen Head, NY 11545









APRIL 24 2:00 PM

OY FATHER

Brookville Multifaith Campus, 2 Brookville Rd, Glen Head, NY 11545



Come and see this musical love story between a Catholic priest and a Jewish Cantor!

> Music by Cantor Irene Failenbogen Script by Rev. Bill McBride.

This great family event runs about 90 minutes, with one intermission. (child care available)

Tickets are \$25 each and are available at the door or on line at <u>irenetunes.com/oy-father</u>

Proof of vaccination is required.



Support Brookville **Reformed Church** by shopping at smile.amazon.com



SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE

Join the in person meeting every Saturday at 9 PM. For more info call Carol B. at (516) 428-0479.



CYBER SECURITY

Cyberattacks can occur in many ways, including:

- Accessing your personal computers, mobile phones, gaming systems and other internet- and Bluetoothconnected devices.
- Damaging your financial security, including identity theft.
- Blocking your access or deleting your personal information and accounts.
- Complicating your employment or business services.
- Impacting transportation and the power grid.

Learn how to protect yourself at https://www.ready.gov/cybersecurity

We did it!!!!

Together we were able to accomplish our goal of raising \$16,500 for a new roof over our shared fellowship hall.

Work will begin soon.

www.brookvillemultifaithcampus.org



Congratulations to Leah Cirker who was accepted into the New York City Pre-Professional Jazz and Contemporary Dance Summer Intensive with the Joffrey Ballet! We are so proud of you!



Thank you to Kevin McGrane for his hard work, scraping off chipping paint on the side of the church building to get it ready for a new coat of paint.







The Next Chapter



Branch Worsham

keep sake kep sak

a small item kept in memory of the person who gave it, owned it, or made it.

heir·loom er loom

a valuable object that has belonged to a family for generations:

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, also: Value is in the eye of the beholder.

Which means: beauty (or value) doesn't exist on its own but is created by observers.

Two years ago, when we moved from Long Island to New Jersey, there were many questions of what to take, leave behind or pass on to the children right then and there. Large furniture pieces wouldn't fit in the new home and there was too much furniture for the smaller place. We moved in with a few pieces of furniture we needed and wanted. Each piece has its own story. So do some of the items that I made or was involved with their acquisition. Here are their stories.



In the seventh grade, all boys went to the SHOP class to work with tools and wood. In 1949 I made a shelf shaped like an oak leaf.

It was completed so quickly the instructor, Mr. Schlegelmilch, advanced me to make the small men's jewelry box, even though I wouldn't have any iewelry for several years. These two pieces have traveled with us into seven homes. Mr. Schegelmilch also taught drawing and drafting which were skill assets for me eight years later at the Academy.

Around 1970 our children were all born and we would spend winters skiing at the family farm in Woodstock, Vermont. Their grandfather, Nancy's Dad, Paul Wehle, spent the summers there and had a beautiful and complete woodshop. He made four wooden stools, one per child. There are still three in use since about 1980.



Continued on page 11



The Next Chapter

In 1980 BJ, age 12, saw me working on a duck carving and wanted to do one too, so we both worked together have had our birds as a reminder of that time.



In 1986 I was given a clock sold by L.L. Bean. It had an acceptable face, but an unbecoming black plastic frame, so I encased it in some wood laying around. The clock is fondly remembered because it is the only personal thing I made at our vacation house in Easton, Maryland on the Eastern Shore.



In the 70's there was a company nearby in Denton, MD, that made Bartley Classic Reproductions of charming furniture kits for advanced craftsmen. For me their shop was like a candy store. In 1996 we bought the Charleston Rice Bed Kit - solid Mahogany - for \$1,595 and made it a family project to finish all of the pieces before assembling. Bartley quoted the bed, frame only, finished, for \$3,500. They had a special stainwax that was a marvel to use, the more coats applied the deeper the luster. We haven't had to touch it up yet. It has



been in five house now. Bartley closed just after that and someone else is trying to make similar kits under the same name but not as beautiful.

My brother, Allen, was a year behind me in school and years ahead of me in skill. We both had the same shop teachers and started with a leaf. But our impetus to work with wood was our father. We both can say, "Thanks Dad." Allen is presently the Chairman of the Wood Shop Club at his development in Florida. I just mailed him a small project because the wood shop in our new home will not be open for a couple of months yet to do projects. Retirement will improve when the shop is open.

~Branch Worsham



Study, Pray and Worship at Brookville Multifaith Campus...

Muslim Reform Movement Organization

muslimreform@hotmail.com

In person and online Prayers, Fridays 1 PM Khutba at 1:10, English Prayer at 1:30

> Online Quran Study Sundays, 2:30 - 4 PM

CLICK FOR ZOOM LINK

Brookville Church

brookvillechurch@gmail.com

In person and online Worship Sundays, 10 AM

Online Bible Study

CLICK FOR ZOOM LINK



New Synagogue of L. I.

newsynagogue.li@gmail.com

Online Shabbat Services The first Friday of each month, 7:00 PM

CLICK FOR ZOOM LINK

Interfaith Community of LI

allison@interfaithli.org In person classes for children certain Sundays, 11 AM

CLICK FOR INFO