

Brookville

Multifaith Campus

NEWS

One house, many faiths, endless opportunities for growth!

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

July
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
rabbiiymatous@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.

www.brookvillemultifaithcampus.org

We ALL belong!

"For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord."

Romans 14:7, 8

This passage in the New Testament of the Bible brings great comfort. It is the comfort of belonging! We ALL belong to the Lord. This belonging is rooted in God's incredible love for each of us. Belonging to the Lord means we are part of a family and this is what it means to not live to ourselves alone. We are all part of the family of God and that family is HUGE! I believe this family not only encompasses Christians, but all believers in God.

We are a large family on this multifaith campus. I'm so thankful for all the ways we have been able to celebrate our faith together. When we do, we are living out our sense of belonging to the BIG family of God. June 16, was one of those days on our campus, as Eid al-Adha, the Muslim holiday commemorating Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son to the Lord, fell on a Sunday. On that day, our Muslim community held their Eid prayer in fellowship hall at the same time that the church service was happening in the sanctuary.

Afterwards, everyone came together to celebrate Eid. It wasn't just Christians and Muslims who came together; there were interfaith families who came too, which included members of our Jewish community. Thank you to Imam Sultan for inviting the other faiths to join the Muslim community for Eid. And thank you to Jasia Mirza for making delicious food for all to enjoy!

We have such a wonderful multifaith family here at Brookville; one that truly lives out the truth that we are not alone. We need to remember that we belong to God and to each other. Knowing this brings comfort, for we are able to face all that life throws our way because we don't have to face life alone. It is exciting to know we will have many more opportunities to celebrate our belonging, as we look forward to future events together.

~ Rev. Vicky



Supporting High Hopes For Haiti Foundation



Dolores Tibbets,
guest contributor

Dear members of the Brookville Multifaith Campus:

Since my dear husband Richard Tibbets and I discovered the loving and inclusive faith community that is the Brookville Multifaith Campus, we knew we'd found a spiritual home that spoke to our yearnings and deepest values. Sadly, Rich passed away two months ago, and I remain especially grateful for the support and compassion of so many Brookville members.

Speaking with Rev. Vicky about a mission in Haiti, which was initiated years ago by my cousin Cecile and her late husband, Dr. Rodrigue Mortel, I was encouraged to consider how we at Brookville might help, particularly during these times when utter chaos and political turmoil have erupted there.

Dr. Rod Mortel, born and raised in Haiti, lived in the abject poverty experienced by so many from that country. Yet despite the lack of what we consider the most basic of human needs, such as indoor plumbing and electricity, he was able to access an education in Haiti and became a doctor. Living amid severe political oppression, he emigrated to Canada for further training and also was able to learn English. He later was hired by Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital in NYC as an oncology surgeon, and it was there that he met my cousin Cecile. He became renowned as a top notch surgeon and researcher and later at Penn State University Medical Center became the first black, foreign-trained physician to head a department of any major medical facility in the United States. During his life Dr. Mortel received the Horatio Alger Award, along with many other accolades. But what Rod never forgot was where he came from and how education had given him opportunities he had never dreamed of. He vowed to do what he could to give the poorest of the poor in his village of St. Marc, Haiti the same opportunity. He envisioned building schools which would provide excellent educational programs that might one day produce future leaders in Haiti.



Years ago, Rich and I traveled to Haiti with a group of supporters to dedicate one of those schools. It was the high school, built to provide the next step in education for young children graduating from the Foundation's very first school, "Les Bon Samaritains" (The Good Samaritans). While we were shocked to see the poverty in this Third World country so near to the shores of our own, we were moved by the amazing spirit and joy of the people, particularly the children. Now life there is considerably darker, and more humanitarian aid is needed.

So Rev. Vicky urged me to consider how our community might help the High Hopes for Haiti Foundation. Very simply we decided to ask our members, if able, to make a contribution. In addition to feeding, educating and providing medical services to the 1,200 children of St. Marc throughout the year, a summer camp program provides much needed respite as well.

To donate simply click on this link <https://highhopesforhaiti.org> . To enable us to track the support our community is able to provide, we ask you to do the following: Whether you donate online or via a check, please indicate that your donation is being made through the intercession of the Brookville Multifaith Campus.

Thank you for considering this worthy cause and for reading this lengthy appeal to help our Haitian sisters and brothers. May God bless us as we work together to promote peace and justice for all!

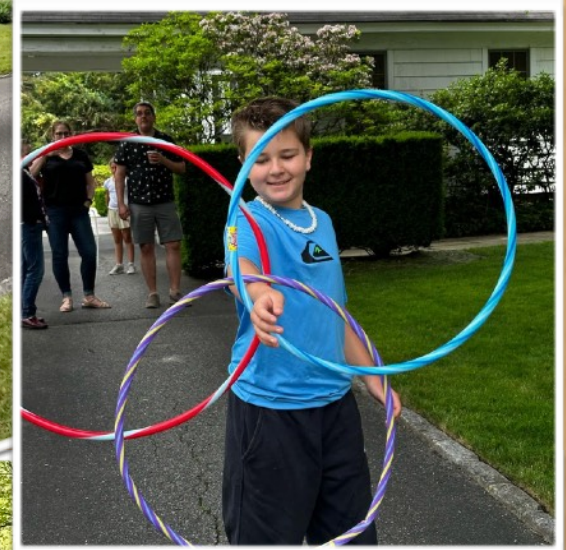
~Dolores Tibbets

On Sunday, June 30th, Rev. Vicky dedicated the new bench for our Peace Garden, asking God to bless those who use it and thanking James Kelleher who raised the funds for its purchase during his Eagle Scout Project.

May all who find their way to this meditative spot find peace.



**On June 9th, we enjoyed our annual campus wide picnic.
Thank you to those who contributed
and those who came to enjoy the
festivities!**





COEXIST COLLECTIBLES FAIR A SUCCESS!

Our Coexist Craft and Collectibles Fair on June 8th was a rousing success, earning \$1,000 for our shared multifaith campus!!

I first want to thank the committee: Marjorie Toran, Linda Hees, Carol Goglia, Dolores Tibbets, Lorrie Latzen and Antonia Petrash. Without their creativity and motivation, as well as their faithful meeting attendance for the last 8 months this could never have happened!

I also want to thank everyone that stepped up and helped with set up, clean up, ideas, sales, social media connections, bake sale donations heavy lifting and general hard work:

Dedicated Dynamo - Nancy Kelleher,
Kitchen Supervisors - Jack Kelleher and Bridgette Fisher
Security & Safety Director - William Kelleher
Sales Support Person - Bob Latzen,
Clothing & Garden Director - Alexis Montserrat
Donor and Super Supporter - Maria Totten
Motivational Master - Carol Goglia
Experienced Money Manager - Lorrie Latzen
Master Scone Maker - Rev. James Eastland
Electronics Director - David Denison
Kitchen Appliance Expert & Chef - Tom Field
Funds Collecting Specialist - Toni Petrash
Sales Controller - Gerry O'Brien
Baker/Sales Support Person - Jeanne Fisher
Positive Feedback Expert - Dolores Tibbets
Spiritual Advisor - Rev. Vicky Eastland,
Fantastic Donors and supporters - Rev. Enid Kessler, Jodi Field and her sister Cindy
Our Always Amazing Sexton - Rigo Melara
Crackerjack Uber-creative Administrative Assistant - Linda Hees!

~Lisa Denison



A HUGE thank you goes out to Visionary Lisa Denison, without whose initial dream none of this would have happened! It is always a joy when we can come together to support our shared multifaith community.

~Rev. Vicky



Muslim Reform Movement Organization

Quran Study every other Sunday 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

All are welcome!

This will be **hybrid** - come in person to the Brookville Multifaith Campus,
Conference Room

or join on line. 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*"

Summer Church Schedule

Brookville Church will combine with the Reformed Church of Locust Valley
for **Sunday 10 AM worship** in July and August.

July: in Locust Valley, 115 Ryefield Road **August:** in Brookville, 2 Brookville Road





Brookville Church & Multifaith Campus and the
Reformed Church of Locust Valley are working together to support a

DIAPER *Drive*

in partnership with the St. Vincent DePaul
Society at St. Gertrud's Church n Bayville



NEEDED:

- **DIAPERS (sizes 3 & 4)**
- **ADULT DEPENDS (size small)**
- **WIPES**

Participate in this important mission to the community.
Drop off donations in the church office (call 516-626-0414 first)
or use Venmo @Brookville-church (7478)



venmo

DIAPERS AND BABY WIPES WANTED for the St. Vincent DePaul Society at St. Gertrude's in Bayville

Their mission is to help anyone in need regardless of race, religion, age, or background. The society provides financial and material assistance, along with emotional and spiritual comfort to help people facing all sorts of challenges.

We are asking the Brookville Multifaith Campus to partner with the Reformed Church of Locust Valley (RCLV) in helping to support three families in Bayville who have young children, are struggling financially, and have had serious health complications. Through the month of July we are asking for donations of **diapers, sizes 3 & 4, adult Depends in size small, and baby wipes**. These items are fairly expensive, and are in constant need. Our hope is that we can come together to help these families.

Thank you to Ardis Mercer, member of RCLV and the St. Vincent DePaul Society, as well as former Administrative Assistant to Brookville Church for coordinating this effort.

BRAG BOX



Congratulations to Rev. Joshua Scheid, Pastor of Massapequa Reformed Church (a sister church to Brookville Reformed Church) who was just elected as the youngest President of the Reformed Church in America (the

denomination our two churches belong to). Rev. Scheid will be representing the denomination, serving in the highest office, as he travels and meets with others over the next year.

Big thank you to Rigo Melara who repainted all of the walls and moulding in the conference room, gave the floor a beautiful shine and set it up for use again!



The Next Chapter



The past week was a difficult one because it put a stranglehold on what was not flowing through me - an inspiration to write this month's Next Chapter. I started to write, to push through something that looked worse the more I wrote. The next day I looked at it - thirty lines

or about half a page - just before an email came from the Editor of this Newsletter. She wanted to know if I would have an article to submit and my reply was wishy- washy, but I would try to finish what I started. Two days later and no better off I deleted all of that drivel. Now I was a week past the usual submission time without a spark of inspiration.

What I was experiencing is called writer's block and it probably has happened occasionally to everyone who writes. I am always in awe of newspaper writers and religious leaders who have to speak to a congregation every week. A preacher

does a sermon usually after a prayer. A Rabbi does a derasha. An Imam gives a Khutbah before the Friday prayer. I cannot imagine that any of our three leaders would not first write what they are going to say.

My wife, Nancy, reads books, lots of them. Her current favorite author is John Grisham who has written seventy-four books and fifty were the consecutive number one best sellers. His first book was in 1989 - only 35 years ago. Better than him is Nancy's all time favorite author, Agatha Christy, whose total books sold was 2 billion. Because she was so famous we visited her simple home in England on one of our trips there. A month or two ago I wrote about how prodigious authors are every year churning out new books. I cannot claim any fame for my short and simple once a month efforts.

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The Next Chapter

In the beginning of this century and lasting more than twenty years were a pair of really popular writers called the God Squad. Pastor Thomas Hartman (a Catholic Priest) and Rabbi Marc Gellman became close friends who opened many doors of faith and personal belief of confused people who read their newspaper articles or saw them on television. I read them often and nearly every word supported someone's need. Here are two examples from Newsday, August 11, 2019

The God Squad

Question: Do you believe in a "literal" Hell?

Answer from Rabbi Gellman: I am not a believer in Hell as a place of torture with lakes of fires and terrible tortures. Rather, I imagine Hell as a place where the souls of the truly wicked among us are simply eradicated. They have killed their souls in their evil lives, and Hell is the verdict of their lifetime of moral lassitude. As for a brief and succinct definition of Hell, my favorite is from the philosopher Thomas Hobbs: "Hell is truth seen too late." So see the truth and avoid Hell.

Question: My son was studying in a Confirmation Class in a church in Seaford. Someone told him that Jews weren't allowed in Heaven. This made him both very angry and very sad as his grandfather (my father) was Jewish. He went to the pastor's office to ask if this was true. The Reverend had a very simple answer. He looked at my son, smiled and said, "In my father's mansion there are many rooms." and there are many ways to reach them.

Answer from Rabbi Gellman: Thank God you have a pastor with spiritual generosity. The passage in the Christian Testament that he was quoting to your son is John 14:2. This is most significant because that verse in John that clearly affirms a variety of ways to salvation precedes the famous verse in John (14:6) where Jesus speaks of himself as the way, the truth and the light which conveys a much more exclusivist teaching.

My answer is two fold: first we should follow our heart and ask "Which texts are more inclusive and more loving?" and then secondly we should not quote the texts which are more exclusive and more limiting. Both texts speak to the truth of scripture in very different ways. I hope all of us believe that our path up the mountain is the best path, the truest path, the most reliable path, but we also acknowledge in humility and love that other paths are also informed by the truth of salvation and others paths get to the top of the mountain along with ours. If some climbers are prevented from entering heaven. If some are kept from the summit then it will be God's choice, not our choice and the God who would make such a limiting choice to bar righteous non-Christians from Heaven is not the God I worship. Count me as one of the climbers who is always encouraging other climbers and always appreciating their spiritual gifts.

Our beloved Rabbi Stuart Paris often told us there were many paths to Heaven. I had never heard about the paths to Heaven until I met the Rabbi. So our Multifaith Campus has been a factor in my own spiritual growth.

A long time ago I heard a pastor exclaim about the goodness of God when little things happen that seem to be coincidences. We should reconsider them because God doesn't just give BIG gifts, God also blesses us all day with little things or events that please us, just as God had intended them to. I learned to become aware of the gifts and would send God a "Thank you".

That just happened today. God reminded me about John Grisham's books because there was one laying on the counter near me and he gave me a boost of inspiration. As I finish this Next Chapter I say, "Thank you God for the help I needed."

~Branch Worsham