

# Brookville Multifaith Campus NEWS

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

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

December  
2022

2 Brookville Road, Glen Head, NY 11545  
[www.brookvillemultifaithcampus.org](http://www.brookvillemultifaithcampus.org)

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

## *Brookville Church*

516-626-0414 [BrookvilleChurch.org](http://BrookvilleChurch.org)  
[brookvillechurch@gmail.com](mailto:brookvillechurch@gmail.com)



Rev. Vicky L. Eastland  
Pastor  
[vickyleastland@gmail.com](mailto:vickyleastland@gmail.com)



Carol Goglia  
Minister of Music  
[cgoglia@aol.com](mailto:cgoglia@aol.com)

## *The New Synagogue of Long Island*

[newsynagogue-li.org](http://newsynagogue-li.org)  
[newsynagogue.li@gmail.com](mailto:newsynagogue.li@gmail.com)



Rabbi Stuart A. Paris  
HaKohen  
[rabbiparis@gmail.com](mailto:rabbiparis@gmail.com)



Cantor Irene  
Failenbogen  
[irenetunes@aol.com](mailto:irenetunes@aol.com)



Rabbi Scott Matous  
[rabbiiymatous@hushmail.com](mailto:rabbiiymatous@hushmail.com)

## *Muslim Reform Movement Organization. MRMO.org*

[MRMO.org](http://MRMO.org)  
[muslimreform@hotmail.com](mailto:muslimreform@hotmail.com)



Dr. Sultan Abdulhameed  
Co-Founder & Teacher  
[muslimreform@hotmail.com](mailto:muslimreform@hotmail.com)



Dr. Syed Asad  
Co-Founder  
[doctorsasad@gmail.com](mailto:doctorsasad@gmail.com)

## *The Interfaith Community of Long Island*

[info@interfaithli.org](mailto:info@interfaithli.org) [Interfaithli.org](http://Interfaithli.org)



Rev. William McBride &  
Cantor Irene Failenbogen  
Directors of Education  
[irenetunes@aol.com](mailto:irenetunes@aol.com)



Rev. Enid Kessler  
Spiritual Advisor  
[interfaith4you@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## Thoughts from campus leaders

### The Meaning of Advent

*Rev. Vicky L. Eastland*

The word “advent” comes from the Latin word that means “coming.” Advent is a season of waiting, expecting, and hoping. Beginning four Sundays prior to Christmas and ending on Christmas Eve, Advent helps us prepare for the coming, or “advent” of the birth of baby Jesus on Christmas.

For hundreds of years, Christians have used an Advent wreath to inspire their hopes for the coming of Jesus. By lighting one candle each week of Advent, we help ourselves get ready for the birth of Jesus.

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*Christine Mankes*

### Holiday Time at the Interfaith Community of Long Island

I love the days and weeks leading up to the holidays! In our house, we celebrate Hanukkah and Christmas. I love to decorate our home - inside and out - making it feel welcoming and festive. We set up our menorah and get a real Christmas tree each year. We decorate the tree with ornaments from places we have traveled over the past 20+ years. Each ornament brings back memories and stories of our different adventures.

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### Hanukkah

*Rabbi Stuart Paris, HaKohen*

Hanukkah, the Jewish festival of rededication, also known as the Festival of Lights, is an eight-day festival beginning on the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev (this year corresponding to December 18th). Hanukkah (alternately spelled Chanukah), meaning “dedication” in Hebrew, refers to the joyous eight-day celebration during which Jews remember the victory of the Maccabees over the Greeks and “rededication” of the Temple in Jerusalem.

According to tradition, at the time of the rededication, there was very little oil left. Oil was needed for the menorah (candelabrum) in the Temple, which was supposed to burn throughout the night every night. There was only enough oil to burn for one day, yet miraculously, it burned for eight days, the time needed to prepare a fresh supply of oil for the menorah. An eight-day festival was declared to commemorate this miracle, the miracle of the oil.

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### God Has Many Names

*Dr. Syed Asad and Dr. Sultan Abdulhameed*

It is a historical fact that belief in the one invisible God was discovered by people in many parts of the world. But in every culture, people became possessive about the name of God they used and considered the names used by others as false. A large part of human history is about conflicts between people who used different names for God and different forms of worship.

The Arabs at the time of Prophet Muhammad were familiar with “Allah” as the name of God, and so it is used extensively in the Quran. The Jews in Arabia used the name Rahman (The Most Merciful) for God, and Prophet Muhammad adopted this name also in his teachings. The Arabs were bewildered by this. They criticized and ridiculed the Prophet Muhammad for using an alien name for God.

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## The Meaning of Advent...continued from page 2

The Advent wreath first appeared in Germany in 1839. A Lutheran minister working at a mission for children created a wreath out of the wheel of a cart. He placed twenty small red candles and four large white candles inside the ring. The red candles were lit on weekdays and the four white candles were lit on Sundays.

The circle reminds us of God's unending love and the eternal life God makes possible.

The most common Advent candle tradition, however, involves four candles. A new candle is lit on each of the four Sundays before Christmas. Each candle represents the players in the Christmas story as well as the main themes of the season. Often, the first, second, and fourth candles are purple and the third candle is rose-colored. A fifth white candle is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Eve to celebrate Jesus' birth.

- The first candle symbolizes the Prophets' **hope**. The prophets were women and men who lived long ago and professed the hope of a coming Messiah whose name would be Emmanuel - God with us.
- The second candle represents the Bethlehem candle of **peace**. Jesus was born in an ordinary little town, in a stable full of animals. May the simple birth of our Lord Jesus bring peace to places of unrest in our lives and in our world.

*“For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6*

- The third candle symbolizes the Shepherds' candle of **joy**. To the shepherds' great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too.
- The fourth candle represents the Angels' candle of **love** because we know that Jesus' love overcame the darkness of this world.
- The fifth candle represents light and purity and is called "**The Christ candle**." It is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Eve.

The Advent wreath is a symbol of God's faithful love as we remember what led up to Jesus' birth.

Blessed Advent,  
*Rev. Vicky*



### Carol's Corner

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!! Our amazing youth are getting ready to take over church on **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 at 10:00 a.m.** 15 talented youth have signed up to host this service and share their excitement of this season. This is the first performance I've directed since Covid hit us. I'm asking for everyone to come or zoom to support this effort. See you there!

## Hanukkah ...continued from page 2

The highlight of the festival of Hanukkah is the mitzvah of kindling the Hanukkah candles every evening. Traditionally this mitzvah is fulfilled by placing the candles in a chanukiyah (a menorah of nine candle holders) and kindling one each of the eight nights. But in the first few days, the menorah always seems very empty and incomplete. As we light another candle each night, the room that was once filled with darkness suddenly becomes a room filled with light and hope.



The menorah brings together two perspectives - the focus on the present and the hopes for the future. Successful growth - whether spiritual, intellectual, or emotional - must always combine two very different approaches. On the one hand, we should always appreciate the potential of our soul and the unlimited capacity to grow into something completely different than we are now. True growth is not just a small token improvement, but rather a fundamental dramatic change of mindset, attitude, and emotional responses. On the other hand, we cannot implement this change at once. While the ultimate goal is drastic change, it has to be accomplished by taking one step at a time.

This is the lesson of the Hanukkah menorah. We light one small flame at a time, representing small and responsible steps. At the same time, we stare at the empty candle holders, reminding ourselves of the greater goal. We light the first, second and third flame one at a time, but aspire to ultimately fill and kindle all of the candle holders.

As we kindle the first candle this Hanukkah, let us be proud of the first step we have taken, while at the same time looking forward to filling and kindling the empty holders. Your goal isn't just to make a big flash of light and then walk away all burnt out. Your goal is to make yourself a shining light and your world an enlightened place. And the only way to do that is taking one step at a time. Wherever you're at in life, know you haven't yet arrived. There's a whole line of menorahs waiting for you to light. Think about it as lighting one candle at a time.

*Chag Hanukkah Sameach –  
Happy Hanukkah!*

*~ Rabbi Stuart A. Paris, HaKohen*

SYNAGOGUE OF THE MONTH  
VIRTUAL SHABBAT SERVICE 5783

The New Synagogue of Long Island  
The Synagogue for Spiritual Judaism

Rabbi Stuart Paris, Hakohen  
Rabbi Scott Matous  
Cantor Irene Failenbogen

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

Please join us on **Friday, December 2, 2022**

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

We rely on your support and commitment!  
Please support The New Synagogue of Long  
Island as generously as you can.

[Print the form and mail it to us!](#)  
[We thank you in advance for your help and  
generosity.](#)

[Donate online](#)

[Zoom Invitation](#)

[Shabbat Service Booklet](#)

[Synagogue of the Month](#)

Text-to-Donate  
Text "NSLI" to (202) 858-1233

## God Has Many Names ...continued from page 2

At that time verse 110 of surah 17 was revealed to Muhammad. It says:

*Say: "Invoke Allah, or invoke the Rahman: by whichever name you invoke Him, all His names are beautiful."*

This aya (verse) points out that God has many names that you can call Him. There is no need to insist that only one is correct and others are wrong.

Most of the alienation between cultures is not about essential values but about chauvinistic feelings related to symbols such as the name of God, forms of worship, buildings, flags, language, etc. People every where believe in God, prayer, generosity, and love, but they express their beliefs using different

symbols. The hostility and wars have been about the empty pride associated with symbols. The important question about God is not that you are proud of the way He is represented in your culture, but how effective your belief is in helping you become a better person. Has your faith guided you to become a source of compassion for all people? If not, there is more to learn about faith.

Each religious tradition began with one person who learned to relate to God in a way that transformed his life and created major positive impact on others. The purpose of religious teaching is to make us aware that such an experience is possible for each of us, and how to achieve it.

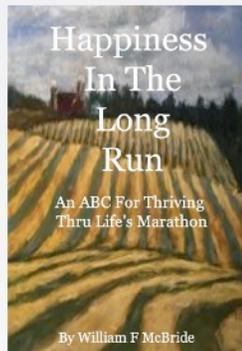
*~ Dr. Syed Asad and Dr. Sultan Abdulhameed*

Rev. Bill McBride will be featured in a Meet the Author event at

**Buddha Jams Yoga Studio**  
192 Glen St.  
Glen Cove, NY 11542

**Saturday Dec. 3, 2 - 4 PM**

**Happiness  
In The Long Run**  
An ABC For Thriving  
Thru Life's Marathon



This event featuring the book "Happiness in the Long Run" by William McBride includes reading, music performance and signing. It is free to the public. For additional information, please call 646-592-7930



William McBride, a veteran of over 40 marathons and former Catholic priest, uses his experience as a point of reference for teaching readers how to find joy in endurance. Inspired by 26 people he calls "olympian life marathon pacesetters", McBride had devised an ABC that includes stories, practices and questions to ponder in taking steps and making strides in life. This book is a guide to help people thrive in the face of life's marathon.



## Brookville Church

2 Brookville Rd. Glen Head, NY 11545  
brookvillechurch@gmail.com  
516-626-0414

Warmly invites you to

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Celebration

**Friday, December 24  
at 6 PM**

The service will be hybrid -  
you may attend in person or  
request a zoom link.

[brookvillechurch@gmail.com](mailto:brookvillechurch@gmail.com)

## Holiday Time at the Interfaith Community of Long Island ...continued from page 2

*How do you celebrate and honor your shared traditions? At our house, we light the menorah for each of the eight nights of Hanukkah and also light the candles on the advent wreath. I love the connection of "light" in both traditions.*

We visit my mother-in-law's for Hanukkah and we host Christmas Eve at our house. Jewish and Christian members of our family join us at the Brookville Multifaith Campus for the annual pageant, service and holiday party. Our youngest child participates in the Christmas pageant and our older kids volunteer to help with the activity stations like cookie decorating and letters to Santa.

The question is: how do you celebrate and honor your shared traditions? The answer is really unique to each family. For some families, the answer evolves over time and as our children get older. Our shared traditions do pose challenges - a few years ago the first night of Hanukkah fell on Christmas Eve! But we celebrate and honor both traditions in a way that works for us. We truly enjoy celebrating Hanukkah and Christmas and get wrapped up in the holiday spirit!



### How can I stay informed?

#### EMAIL

Please check your email for updates. If you would like to be added to our email distribution list, please email [allison@interfaithli.org](mailto:allison@interfaithli.org).

#### SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ifcli>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/interfaithcommunityli/>

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!

## Mark your calendars!

### Interfaith religious education classes on

**Sunday, 12/4 at 11am! All are welcome!** Registration is still open!

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>

### IFCLI Christmas Pageant and Holiday Party!

Come celebrate Hanukkah and Christmas with us

**on Sunday, 12/18**

Pageant & service begins at 10am

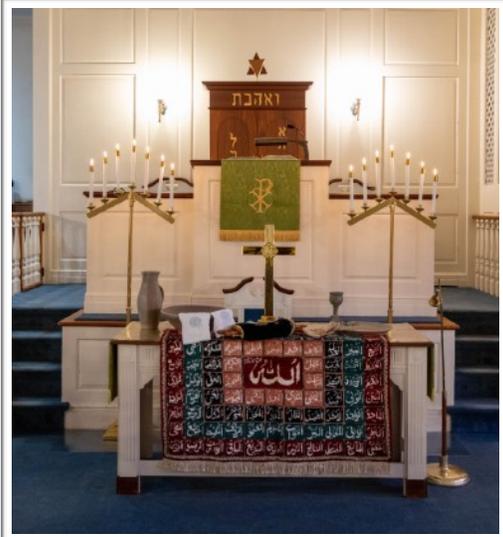
Party begins at 11am

Cookie decorating, Letters to Santa, Latkes, Dreidel and more!

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!

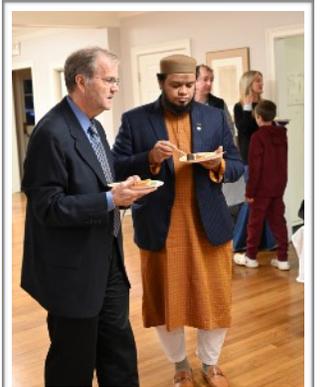
# Multifaith Thanksgiving Celebration

was held on Sunday, November 13, 2022



The Multifaith Thanksgiving celebration at our campus always brings the spirit of hope and friendship. Everyone left feeling uplifted and with the sense of belonging. All the communities shared their traditions, treats and leaders in a heart warming manner. The spiritual messages of our hymns "All are Welcome" and "Full of Thankfulness" were sung and lived with every breath we took that afternoon.

Watch the [Zoom recording on our website](#)



**Seventh Annual American Revolution  
Hessian Christmas Ceremony,  
Tree Lightings & Caroling, and Dinner Party**

**DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2022**

The Cedar Swamp Historical Society, Socrates Masonic Lodge, East Hillside Cemetery, The Underhill Society of America, Inc. & The Reformed Church of Locust Valley, and with special guest, the Johannes Schwalm Historical Association.

*Cordially invite all to our Annual Historic Christmas Tradition:*

**4:00-5:15 p.m.**  
Christmas tree lighting ceremony at the unmarked graves of American Revolutionary War Hessian soldiers, commemorating the 7 year occupation of Long Island, at historic East Hillside Cemetery, in Old Brookville, intersection of Cedar Swamp Road (Rte. 107) & East Hillside Cemetery Road. Jericho Cider Mill hot cider & donuts served.

**6:00-7:00 p.m.**  
Christmas tree lighting, caroling & cocktail party at The Reformed Church of Locust Valley, 115 Ryefield Road, Lattintown, N.Y. Free, all welcome & encouraged to bring a dessert or beverage, but not expected. Jericho Cider Mill hot cider & donuts served outside.

**7:00-11:00 p.m.**  
Authentic German dinner & Christmas party, in The Reformed Church of Locust Valley's Fellowship Hall, with live music & dancing. Attendance at the dinner party requires an RSVP and advance payment by December 7<sup>th</sup>; cost is \$45 pp, no refunds (visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/7th-annual-hessian-christmas-tree-lightings-caroling-dinner-party-tickets-472991459187> to purchase online or for more details, including dinner party ticket purchases, directions, etc.) Transportation options are available, including a designated driver. Everyone is encouraged to bring a special dessert or beverage to add to the festivities.

*The Hessians Are Coming!*

We hope you can attend all or some of our 3 events above. As always, we collect children's Christmas presents which we deliver to the Ronald McDonald House in New Hyde Park.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, QUESTIONS, VOLUNTEERING & SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES & TO RSVP FOR THE DINNER, CONTACT STEVE AT 516-996-0763 or [steverussell1970@gmail.com](mailto:steverussell1970@gmail.com)

*We Wish Everyone a Happy, Healthy & Safe Holiday Season!*

**Click for details and to RSVP**



Thank you to Rigo Melara and Lisa & Dave Denison for adding a festive touch to the sanctuary!



**Save the Date!**

The IFC students invite you to join in their MLK Day Social Justice Outreach project on Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Day in January.

**DONATE at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)**

# The Next Chapter



*Branch Worsham*

In just a few weeks there will be the usual New Year's Resolutions, but before that, what if we had an end of the year honest talk with ourselves? Or with each other? Since moving to this retirement community in New Jersey we still haven't gotten into the things available to do. Too much work ahead. I have written a couple

of these Next Chapter messages with some frank comments about our end time coming because it isn't often written about. I have done it again here.

## AS YOU LOOK BACK

What is something you're grateful for as the year ends?

Who can we send a note of gratitude?

Why stop at one?

What was one thing this year that was hard?

How did you get past it?

What will you miss most?

## WHEN YOU LOOK FORWARD

What is one challenge you anticipate having to face soon?

How can you prepare to handle it well?

What is one thing you would really like to see happen?

## THE RESULTS Here are my answers.

**GRATEFUL** I am grateful for the continuity of life as I know it. Getting up to a bright or gray day is the reward of a good nights sleep and throughout the day there are reminders of God's blessings coming to me.

**GRATITUDE** I got an email from the son of a West Point classmate, a not so young fellow who reminds me of Minnesota, where we both came from. His message is always uplifting. So I sent him a note of goodwill today. I have already written one more and made a short list of some more to write. Try it yourself, it is a good feeling.

**HARD** It was hard to decide not to continue going and doing many of the things I have enjoyed, but I have eliminated trips to see classmates in the Washington, DC area where many of them live. That

includes a large party for the Army-Navy game that I have seen every year for 68 years and several Christmas musical events held there.

**GET PAST** To tell the truth, our sons and daughters made it clear I should not be driving longish trips anymore; they have offered to be our chauffeur if we wish to travel, but I will avoid abusing their kindness and will simply cut out the trip. Realizing that if our safety means that much to them we should step back and take care of ourselves by staying at home.

**MISS** I have a deep fondness to run and did so whenever and wherever I have been. Across a strip of desert, up a trail that led to a glacier, on seashore beaches, in the 5 AM dark of a 15 degree day with snow falling, and through the streets of so many cities it would fill two lines of their names. I cannot run or jog anymore. Walking is a substitute that does not fill me with joy and a sense of accomplishment, but I do it because there isn't anything else. I miss running.

**CHALLENGE** I must accept the reality that aging has been winning. AFIB and Stenosis continue to diminish my joy of life. The challenge is to continue while I can. I have observed in the recent years and especially more the past two or three years, I have classmates, dear friends, who are well and active, and then boom, some injury, or disease, or cancer, takes them away in less than a year.

**HANDLE** How to handle it well? I've decided to carry on as my fiends are doing. It has been easier to understand what God wants of me and now easier to accept that challenge because it comes with His blessings and peace.

**ONE THING** This year, beginning now, I will consider the circumstances and pick a date for a real retirement and announce it to the people around me who should know and then, with their help, stick to that plan. Nancy and I both want to live past age 90 and then pick another age goal, why not 95?

*~ Branch Worsham*

BEAT NAVY!

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

## Muslim Reform Movement Organization

[muslimreform@hotmail.com](mailto:muslimreform@hotmail.com)

In Person Prayers,  
Fridays 1 PM  
*Khutba* at 1:10, English  
*Prayer* at 1:30

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Online Quran Study  
Sundays, 2:30 - 4 PM

[CLICK FOR ZOOM LINK](#)

## Brookville Church

[brookvillechurch@gmail.com](mailto:brookvillechurch@gmail.com)

Hybrid Worship Celebrations  
Sundays, 10 AM

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Online Bible Study

[CLICK FOR ZOOM LINK](#)



## New Synagogue of L.I.

[newsynagogue.li@gmail.com](mailto:newsynagogue.li@gmail.com)

Shabbat Services  
One Friday a month, 7:00 PM

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[CLICK FOR ZOOM LINK](#)

## Interfaith Community of L.I.

[allison@interfaithli.org](mailto:allison@interfaithli.org)

In person classes for children

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[CLICK FOR INFO](#)