

Brookville

Multifaith Campus

NEWS



Room for All

An Open and Affirming
Campus to the
LGBTQIA+ community.

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

June 2023

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



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



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

The Interfaith Community of Long Island

info@interfaithli.org 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

Dual Belonging - Part II

The Brookville Reformed Church was established 44 years before the U.S. became a nation. In 1732 in Wolver Hollow, a group of Dutch settlers formed the Low Dutch Reformed Church of Oyster Bay on the northwest border of what is now considered the Village of Muttontown. Originally, worship services were conducted exclusively in the Dutch language, but switched to English around the time of the Civil War. On September 9, 2023, we celebrate our 291st birthday as a member church of the Reformed Church in America (RCA), the oldest continuous protestant denomination in the United States.

At the beginning of 2021, Brookville Church began a discussion with its members about the possibility of becoming aligned with the United Church of Christ (UCC). We met with representatives of the UCC to learn about this protestant denomination and what a partnership with the UCC would look like. This garnered excitement as we dreamed of the possibilities and the resources this would open up for Brookville Church.

While we desired to remain connected to our reformed roots, we also believed in an ever expanding God and felt that the United Church of Christ was a good fit for our congregation as we continued to embrace a God that far exceeds the boundaries we attempt to place on God. The core values of the UCC resonated with the call and direction we felt God leading us as a congregation.

The UCC's slogan is to never place a period where God has placed a comma and that is what we are living out at Brookville Church. We too believe in a Living God that is active and ever expanding. In alignment with the UCC, Brookville Church strives to be an inclusive, progressive congregation who embraces God's continued voice, ever calling us to activism and spiritual growth.

On March 28, 2021 the Brookville Church congregation unanimously voted to become a partner church with the United Church of Christ. The leadership of Brookville Church is excited for all the new possibilities this opens

for our congregation and will continue to keep you informed as we move forward together.

What was written above was published in our August 2021 campus newsletter. Because of COVID and recent losses on our campus, we haven't kept you informed about our dual affiliation with the RCA and UCC. I will spend the summer months using my space in our newsletter to do just that. So consider this your first update.

Shortly after becoming a member church of the UCC, we made national news with our inclusion in Pierre Pirard's global documentary, All of Us. You can check out the article on the [United Church of Christ's website here](#).



On January 24, 2017 Brookville Church became rostered with Room for All as a welcoming and affirming congregation. This means we are recognized as supporting, educating, and advocating for the full inclusion of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Persons in the Reformed Church in America. We are the only RCA rostered church that includes a Muslim and a Jewish congregation in this designation as Imam

Sultan Abdulhameed and Rabbi Stuart Paris requested their faith communities be included in the roster. You can see all of us listed on [the roster here](#).

We are now in the process of a similar designation in the UCC and will let you know when we reach that status so we can celebrate together.

Celebrating Diversity,

Rev. Vicky

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SUNDAY JUNE 18TH - To celebrate Pride Month Brookville Church has invited Rev. Ann Kansfield to preach. She is the reason Room for All exists. See page 6 for more info.

Shavuot

Shavuot is the “Festival of the Giving of the Torah” at Mount Sinai, which occurs seven weeks after Passover. *Shavuot* is a two-day holiday which falls on the 6th and 7th of the Hebrew month of *Sivan*, this year corresponding to May 26 – 27. The Torah was given by G-d to the Jewish people on Mount Sinai more than 3,300 years ago. Every year on the holiday of *Shavuot* we renew our acceptance of G-d’s gift, and G-d “re-gives” the Torah. It is customary to eat dairy foods on *Shavuot* because Jewish tradition compares the words of Torah to the sweetness of milk and honey. Blintzes and cheesecake are among the popular foods to make and enjoy for the holiday.

After the miraculous Exodus from Egypt, the Jewish people traveled in the desert for 49 days until they reached Mount Sinai on the 6th day of the Hebrew month of *Sivan*. There they experienced the ultimate revelation and communion with G-d. They encountered G-d face to face, heard the voice of G-d and received the Torah and its commandments - the *mitzvot*. *Passover* is called the birthday of the Jewish people; *Shavuot*, is the Bar/Bat Mitzvah of the Jewish people. It is a time to celebrate the *Mitzvot* - the responsibilities implicit to the loving relationship we enjoy with G-d.

The Torah comes from G-d. When hearing an instruction from the Torah, we need the ability to listen. This is a rare quality because usually our own ego gets in the way. We hear our own ideas, not what the Torah is saying. Humility is the step beyond our ego, a mood of selflessness, which makes us receptive to the Torah. Ego is “Easing G-d Out”. Humility is the opposite.

What is this notion of “humility” and what does it have to do with the Torah? Humility does not mean a meek reluctance to speak up or be assertive. Humility is not slouching your shoulders and having low self-esteem. Humility is to know one's place.



Moses was called “the most humble” because, when he stood before G-d, he knew his place.

The truly humble person is not dependent on the opinion of others. Sometimes doing the right thing is popular and consistent with one's needs, and sometimes it's not. The humble person can set his needs aside. Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less. Humility is the ability to be objective about one's own position. The Prophet Micah wrote, “*Do Justice; Love Mercy; Walk Humbly with your G-d*” (Micah 6:8). The message of *Shavuot*, the holiday of reliving the Sinai experience, is to know our place, make some space, and let the truth of G-d enter deep inside.

The Torah is more than the rules of life. The Torah is a living encounter with G-d. The revelation of G-d at Mount Sinai wasn't simply an opportunity for us to receive G-d's laws, but to experience G-d's love. The Torah embodies not only a way of life, but also a way to love. The wisdom and commandments of the Torah empower us to love each other and to love G-d.

When we accept the gift of Torah, we receive the Giver Himself.

The Torah is Life. The Torah is Knowledge. The Torah is Love. The Torah is Joy.

Wishing you a Happy *Shavuot*!

Love and Blessings,
Rabbi Scott Matous

The Hajj Experience By Dr. Syed Asad and Dr. Sultan Abdulhameed

Every year nearly two million Muslims from different parts of the world gather in the holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia to perform the Hajj pilgrimage. It culminates in the second most important Muslim festival, Eid al Adha. The Hajj this year is expected to begin on June 23, but the exact date will be announced by the Saudi authorities according to sighting of the new moon in Mecca. The five-day journey is a once-in-a-lifetime obligation for all Muslims who are physically and financially able to undertake it. During the Hajj, all men wear two pieces of unstitched white cloth without pockets. Women are fully covered except for face, hands, and feet. The simple dress aims to strip us of our worldly identity; everyone is equal before God. The pilgrimage is a time of self-reflection, repentance, and renewal of faith. It serves as a reminder of the transient nature of life and the importance of focusing on the eternal relationship with Allah.

Hajj brings together rich and poor Muslims from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and nationalities, fostering a sense of unity and equality. Gathering people from various walks of life, all wearing the same modest attire, promotes brotherhood, and a shared sense of purpose.

Hajj traces its origins back to the time of Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) and his family, with rituals commemorating the experiences and sacrifices of Ibrahim, his wife Hajar, and his son Ismail. The Kaaba, the focal point of Hajj, is

believed to have been built by Ibrahim and Ismail, representing the first house of worship dedicated to one God. By performing Hajj, Muslims connect with their religious heritage and honor the legacy of the prophets. Hajj is rich in symbolism and rituals. The Tawaf, circling the Kaaba seven times, symbolizes the unity of Muslims around a common focal point. The Sa'i, walking between the hills of Safa and Marwa, commemorates Hajar's search for water and her unwavering faith. The all day standing at Arafat signifies the Day of Judgment and serves as a moment of supplication and reflection. These rituals engage the pilgrims in a spiritually uplifting experience.



A family dressed for Hajj

Prophet Muhammad said that sincere performance of Hajj leads to forgiveness of past sins and a fresh start in life. Pilgrims strive to improve their character, resolve conflicts, and seek reconciliation with others. The challenges faced during the journey, such as physical exertion of walking long distances in hot weather foster patience, perseverance, and humility.

Hajj is a global gathering that promotes understanding, tolerance, and cultural exchange among Muslims. Pilgrims interact with fellow Muslims from different countries, exchanging experiences and ideas and fostering a sense of global community. This engagement helps break down barriers and promotes mutual respect and cooperation among diverse Muslim societies.

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: **Dr. Sultan Abdulhameed**, author of "*The Quran & the Life of Excellence*"
email for details: muslimreform@hotmail.com

Last Wonderbox Lesson and Interfaith Community of L. I. Classes of the Season

Interfaith families joined the Brookville Church congregation for its last Wonderbox lesson for the school year. A Wonderbox lesson is a simple Bible message taught with props hidden in the wonderbox for the children to discover and help teach the lesson.

This lesson was about Pentecost - the day the Holy Spirit came to Christians and the church was born.

Classes ended around the Peace Pole.

IFCLI wishes everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.

See you in the fall!



IFCLI Upcoming Events

6/4, 12 PM - Identity & Transition Commencement Ceremony

6/4, 1 PM - Campus-wide picnic

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 allison@interfaithli.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

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

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

Please check our website <https://www.interfaithli.org/home> for a full calendar

Brookville Church invites you to a special

Pride Worship Celebration

**Sunday June 18
10 AM**

**2 Brookville Rd.
Glen Head**



The featured guest preacher will be Rev. Ann Kansfield, author of "Be the Brave One: Living Your Spiritual Values Out Loud and Other Life Lessons". She uses her wit and knack for accessible storytelling in her preaching.

Rev. Ann is the first female and openly gay chaplain at the New York Fire Department, and voted the inaugural New York Times New Yorker of the Year.

She co-pastors Greenpoint Reformed Church in Brooklyn with her wife Rev. Jennifer Aull.

There will be a book signing and fellowship time following worship.

For more information contact Brookville Church at 516-626-0414.



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



Muslim Reform Movement Organization

**Saturday,
June 29, 2023,
10:30 AM**

invites you to Eid prayer.

Refreshments
will be served.

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

Open
to ALL!

Eid Al-Adha

MUBARAK

Temple Or Elohim A Community Reform Congregation Presents:

Concert Against Hate with Cantor Katz and Friends on June 25th at 7:30PM

*Don't hate
what you
don't
understand
- John Lennon -*



Cantor Katz
Vocalist



Dean Karahalidis
Conductor



Deana Verone
Vocalist



Gathering Time
Folk Rock Trio



Concert Pops
Symphonic Orchestra



Toby Tobias
Ensemble

With Special Guest

Moments Notice
Gospel Choir

**Scan The QR Code To Register Online As Soon As Possible
Admission Is Free. No Entry Without Registration.**

Seating is not provided, so don't forget to bring your chairs & refreshments

SCAN ME





CAMP WARWICK SUMMER 2023

Unmistakable



Matthew
5:14-16

CAMP SUNRISE

Week 1: June 25–30
Week 2: July 2–7
Week 3: July 9–14
Week 4: July 16–21
Week 5: July 23–28

VOLUNTEER!

Become a
Camp Sunrise
Volunteer

Earn volunteer hours, learn new skills, have leadership opportunities, choose 1–5 weeks, be part of a supportive and close knit team, have SO MUCH FUN!
Need to be 15+ years old

DAY CAMP

Week 1: June 26–30	Week 6: July 31– Aug. 6
Week 2: July 3–7	Week 7: Aug. 7–11
Week 3: July 10–14	Week 8: Aug. 14–18
Week 4: July 17–21	Week 9: Aug. 21–25
Week 5: July 24–28	

BECOME A STAFF MEMBER

Create meaningful relationships with campers and fellow staff, grow in leadership skills and opportunities, share your gifts and talents, and have the best summer of your life!

IN CAMP

Week 1: July 30 - Aug. 4
Entering 3rd–entering 6th grades

Week 2: Aug. 6–11
Entering 7th–entering 12th grade

Camp registration links, the volunteer application, and the staff application can be found

www.campwarwick.org

Camp Scholarships Available! Email: brookvillechurch@gmail.com to inquire

St. Paul's Reformed Church in North Babylon, an outreach ministry that houses the North Babylon Food Pantry, Emma's Table (a feeding ministry), 3 Narcotics Anonymous support groups, as well as Boy and Girl Scout troops, is in need of a new boiler. They need to have heat in order to maintain their vital outreach activities in the community. Only \$2,305 has been raised for a need of \$10,000.



Let's help them reach their goal while the weather is still warm!
To learn more, go to their [Go Fund Me page](#) and make a donation today.

BRAG BOX



Congratulations to Nathan McBride who is graduating from Frank Sinatra School of the Arts. He will attend Macaulay Honors program at Queens College



Congrats to Charlie Mankes on his acceptance to SUNY Albany.

We share in Carol Goglia's pride for her niece, Kirby Schneider on her graduation from Stony Brook University!



Kirby at graduation with Aunt Carol Goglia



Congratulations for Kirby's excellence in occupational field work.



Congratulations to Michael Benjamin on his graduation from SUNY Polytechnic Institute! We know you have a bright future ahead of you!



BIG congratulations are in order for Michaela Gawley who graduated from Fordham law school. Pictured with her parents, Pam and Steve Gawley



We congratulate Martha Worsham on her graduation from SUNY Old Westbury with a BA in Finance. Martha, with her Mother

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!

Over three hundred attendees gathered to celebrate the life and achievements of Dr. Faroque Khan on Sunday, May 21, 2023. Dr. Khan is a friend of Brookville Multifaith Campus, chairing the Interfaith Institute of Long Island (IFI) - whose vision is to be a center for developing and sustaining a progressive, vibrant interfaith community and a nurturing environment for the society at large.

Our multifaith campus has partnered with IFI co-hosting many events including Prayer in the Abrahamic Faiths, film showing of the Sultan and the Saint, the 2022 IFI Annual Award Ceremony honoring Pierre Pirard, producer and director of the documentary **All of Us** featuring our multifaith campus, along with many other co-sponsored events.



Dr. Khan pictured at the recognition luncheon with his wife, Dr. Arfa Rasool Khan



Planning Committee with Dr. Khan as he received a lifetime achievement award

United Methodist Confirmation classes Visit Brookville Multifaith Campus

The confirmation classes from the Woodbury UMC, Centerport UMC and St. Paul's UMC in Northport (which are part of the North Shore Suffolk Cooperative Parish) led by Rev. David Czeisel, came to Brookville on May 24.

They learned about Islam from Dr Sultan Abdulhameed, about Judaism from Rabbi Scott Matous and about the collaboration that happens only in Brookville from Rev. Vicky Eastland.

The students and their family members asked some very insightful questions in the Q&A time.



photo collage by Rev. David Czeisel

The Next Chapter



There are many days when something happens that connects me to a pleasant memory. Some of those times are repeats of a now daily routine. Nancy likes fresh squeezed orange juice. Who doesn't? When we moved to New Jersey we had time to begin an evening snack before dinner

and OJ was her drink of choice. Each evening I will get out our vintage orange juice squeezer, an eight ounce glass, three oranges and treat my bride to her favorite drink. The squeezer was made in about 1945 by the Wear-Ever Aluminum Company and is worth about forty dollars but its memory value is beyond measure. It has been used over 800 times just since we moved to NJ and its treasured value to us increases each time.

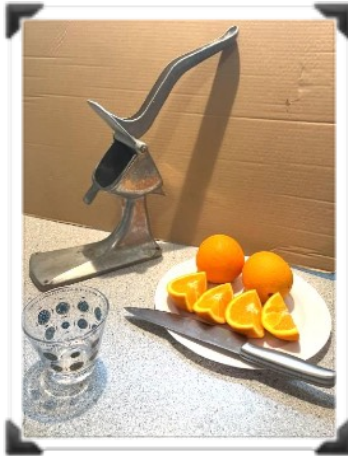
There are oranges available all year long, Navel Oranges, called winter fruit - December to June, followed by Valencia Oranges - summer fruit - July to September, named for the part of Spain they originated from and we end the year with Temple and Honeybells - the famous Florida Christmas gift boxes sent each year. I think of our family trips to Florida and stopping at Hale Groves along the highway to bring home souvenir bags for family and friends.

Living in Alaska in the sixties were for us very exciting years all of the time. Access to salmon and other seafood filled the spring, summer and early fall with new treats, totally different from what I knew from freshwater catches in Minnesota. A recent purchase from ShopRite was a salmon pate that disappointed me until I read the label carefully, the fish was lightly smoked which was correct, but I expected a strong smoky flavor. The package was from the ACME smoked fish company in Brooklyn and I knew they also had the real thing. For comparison I checked on my favorite Alaska memory - canned smoked sockeye salmon, six ounces of savory delight. Bought from the Discovery Riverboat in Fairbanks which has been there for over 100 years as a working hauler on the Chena River when there were no roads. My brother is coming to visit us at the end of June and I am going to order in a couple of cans for the visit. We both had tours of duty in Alaska, both came home with trophy bears - his a Kodiak brown bear, mine a Polar bear - the two largest bears in existence today. My brother was an avid fisherman and smoked and canned his own salmon.

Last week I was folding some bed sheets and wondered about seeing my mother doing laundry in the 40's and

50's. After the sheets were dried outdoors on the clothes line they were brought into the house to be pressed on a mangle. That word, for a useful home appliance is not even used anymore. Mom would sit at the mangle like a machinist in a factory would work at a metal working device. The mangle has a hot roller with a press that could make the wrinkles disappear and this was as essential in a good house as doing the weekly laundry itself was. The presser would be lifted off of the roller, the fabric was laid between them and then the press came down and the roller started the process. It was work that I didn't appreciate then, it was just something mom did. Now the fabrics are able to practically flatten themselves when folded carefully.

A week ago the fruit and veggie department at ShopRite had Super Large Blueberries (their words) and were they ever. Now and then a few big ones are in a box, but that day all of the boxes had large fruit. My first taste of blueberries was as a young boy and a year or two later I was old enough to go 'up north' in Minnesota with my parents to pick wild low bush blueberries. They were never available in stores in the 40's; knowing where they grew in the wild and were not picked over by others was the key to success. Cultivating and selling in large quantities didn't happen until the late 1900's. We never had enough wild blueberries though to make a pie. About ten years ago there was a store in



Connecticut that made and sold wild blueberry pies, what a treat they were, but the high bush cultivated berries now allow all stores to have blueberry pies..

The cycles of the earth - spring, summer, fall and winter - have their own power to drive the lives of the people living in an area. The farmers plant and harvest, carpenters dig the foundation and build the frames adding the siding so they are able to do the interior work when the fall and winter arrive. The fishing I have mentioned is seasonal because they create a new generation and the harvest starts twice. The fingerling fish are eaten by birds that need to prepare for their flights away and then the bears eat the returning fish the next fall with the fishermen taking their share in between.

We organize our lives to accept the earth's cycles so that there is less clutter in our days and thus in our minds.

~ Branch Worsham