

Brookville

Multifaith Campus

NEWS



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

October
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)
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The New Synagogue of Long Island

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The Interfaith Community of Long Island

info@interfaithli.org Interfaithli.org



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.

Volunteers Earn a Gold Star in Heaven!

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” First Peter 4:10

Volunteers make the world go round, at least that is the case at Brookville Church and Multifaith Campus! I put in a lot of work to keep things running, but I get PAID to do so. Almost everyone else is a volunteer and we could not function if it wasn’t for the amazing hearts of those who give so much of their time and talent to keep this place going.

I can’t even begin to thank everyone by name who has volunteered countless hours to provide what is needed for us to be the open, inclusive and welcoming space we are, but I do want to give a shout out to a few. So... just know that if your name is not mentioned, it doesn’t mean you aren’t seen for all you do, it’s just that I could fill the entire newsletter if I listed all of you and what you do.

So let me begin with the faithful Consistory (church board) who have served well beyond their terms and do everything from approving and assisting in Baptisms, to maintaining our property:
Elder Vice President, Tom Field
Elder, Lisa Denison
Deacon and Treasurer, Hank Surig
Deacon, John Kelleher

Did you know that for over 16 years Rigo Melara and his wife, Esperanza, have **volunteered** as our sextons that keep our facilities clean and the grounds pristine? In exchange for reduced rent to live on site, they have given over and above of their time and dedication to the Lord and our campus. Most know that over a year ago Rigo had a near fatal accident which has prevented him from returning to his paid job as property manager for a local estate. The Melara’s are waiting for the workers compensation case to be closed so they can retire to their home country of El Salvador. In the meantime, they continue to keep our campus clean and well maintained.



The Steering Committee of the Interfaith Community are volunteer parents! They do everything from making sure the classrooms are well stocked, provide bagels and coffee on class days, promote the community on social media, recruit new families, organize parent night out gatherings and so much more!

Steering Committee Chair, Allison Bilawsky
Education Chair, Nancy Kelleher
Finance Chair, Jim Decker
Membership and Social Media Chairs, Gayle Kalvert & Student Volunteer, Penelope Kalvert
Co-op Chair, Derek Mainhart
Communication Chair, Christine Mankes

The Muslim Reform Movement Organization (MRMO) was founded by Imam Sultan Abdulhameed and Dr. Syed Asad, two amazing Muslims, who have devoted decades of service to MRMO with no pay besides the rewards of faithful service to Allah.



It has taken a team effort to keep The New Synagogue of Long Island (NSLI) going after losing its founding rabbi, Stuart Paris. Two faithful volunteers who run the technology for

the synagogue, Seth Cirker and Steven Schombs, have given time and talent to make sure the services are able to be hybrid. Seth spent copious hours setting up his own equipment for the High Holiday services in September as well as donating equipment to the Makor Center for Spiritual Judaism located in Manhattan, where Rabbi Scott Matous is rabbi (as well as being the rabbi for NSLI). Steven met Rabbi Scott at Makor to help him get the equipment set up and functioning before Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services, so the two synagogues could conduct the services together. (See page 7 for pictures and more info.)

Countless others have given time and talent to our community over the years and all deserve a Gold Star in heaven! I am eternally grateful for each and every one!

~ Rev. Vicky

Sukkot – An Important Message for Our Time

Sukkot, a Hebrew word meaning "booths" or "huts," refers to the Jewish festival of giving thanks for the fall harvest. It also commemorates the 40 years of Jewish wandering in the desert after the giving of the Torah atop Mt. Sinai. *Sukkot* is celebrated five days after Yom Kippur on the 15th day of the month of *Tishrei* (this year corresponding to September 29th).

Sukkot is marked by several distinct traditions. One tradition, which takes the commandment to dwell in booths literally, is to erect a sukkah, a small, temporary booth or hut. While all Jewish holidays serve as great opportunities to practice hospitality, *Sukkot* seems to be the most hospitable of all the Jewish holidays. What other time of year do we build a temporary makeshift house with the goal of inviting others into it and dwelling together as a community?

Another *Sukkot* observance is the taking of the Four Kinds (Species): an *etrog* (citron), a *lulav* (palm frond), three *hadassim* (myrtle twigs) and two *aravot* (willow twigs). On each day of the festival (except Shabbat), we take the Four Kinds, recite a blessing over them, bring them together and wave them in all six directions: right, left, forward, up, down, and backward.

Each of us has something to learn and to offer. When we come together, when we take each of our skillsets, each of our stories and experiences, each of our gifts and flaws and combine into one unified force dedicated to tikkun olam (repair of the world),

we become something bigger than we could have ever anticipated.

Sukkot is about gratitude. Most of the year, we are focused on what needs to be done and what we can change, either in our work, life, or within ourselves. *Sukkot* urges us to live in the moment. We are not to dwell on the past or concern ourselves with preparing for the future, but to see what is now and find the joy in it. *Sukkot* offers us the perspective to balance our focus on what we can control with our releasing of what we cannot. *Sukkot* reminds us to let go of that over which we have no power and to rejoice in that which is before us.

So, enjoy the moment. Gather with family, friends, co-workers, and members of your community. Appreciate what you have and find contentment in reaching the end of yet another yearly cycle. If we take advantage of this time that *Sukkot* offers us, we may feel nothing but joy.



May the words recited at the end of reading each book of the Torah inspire you: *Chazak, chazak, v'nitchazeik*. "Be strong, be strong, and we will strengthen each other."

Love and Blessings,
Rabbi Scott Matous

Shabbat Services

Email newsynagogue.li@gmail.com
for details

Do Not Underestimate What You Can Do

Allah does not charge a soul except with that within its capacity. (Sura 2:286)

In this last verse of Surah Baqarah, Allah describes the resilience and strength the human spirit possesses. This is why we must avoid complaining at all costs; it is a disease of the mind that will never improve the situation. When you complain, you are making yourself out to be the victim and unknowingly blaming the tests we all must face. Instead, you should make the choice and view yourself as a survivor rather than a victim when a calamity strikes.

This does not mean we should be embarrassed or ashamed of crying or feeling weak. Suffering is inescapable; letting the tears fall shows you dare to endure the pain. Surah Yusuf 12:86 says, *"I only complain of my suffering and my grief to Allah, and I know from Allah that which you do not know."* Complaining outwardly to everyone but Allah is the thief of patience.

And when we pray, we shouldn't ask for less on our plate; instead, we should ask that we become more skillful and triumphant in our battles. Allah in the Qur'an directly says, *"And We will surely test you with something of fear and hunger and a loss of wealth and lives and fruits but give good tidings to the patient"* (2:155). Accept that test you are given and fight through it with courage. You can be sure that Allah will never burden you with more than you could shoulder. Say to yourself out loud, "I got this, because Allah has created me with

strengths and skills." We realize our inner strength only when we are pushed beyond what we thought possible. Don't underestimate what you can do. If you spend enough time and acquire the proper knowledge, you'll be further along than you ever imagined. Seek help or advice from others; this is not a form of complaining but a sign of maturity.

We must also shift our perspective on suffering; blessings and burdens are not always mutually exclusive. A gift is wrapped somewhere in your suffering; you need to dig deep enough to uncover it. From the Russian author Fyodor Dostoyevsky, "Pain and suffering are always inevitable for a significant intelligence and a deep heart; there is only one thing that I dread: not to be worthy of my nightmares." How we view our experiences and the stories we tell ourselves about them is all that matters.

This ayah has a second meaning, Allah is telling us to live a productive and purposeful life by finding and bearing the most significant burden we possibly can. To pick up the heaviest thing, you can lift and carry it. We must accept full autonomy and push ourselves to our fullest potential. If you find that you're naturally creative, find ways to use this talent to serve humanity for the better.

All the Prophets subscribed to this notion of adopting full responsibility. They dedicated their entire being to serve their communities and to be of service. A fulfilling life is a life of service. It's often said, "If you help enough people get what they want, you'll have everything you want."

It's also said that the wealthiest place on the planet is the cemetery. Here, you will find inventions never created, cures never discovered, hopes and dreams that never became a reality because people were paralyzed by fear. Fear of failure, judgment, and feeling not good enough. We need to ignore all that. We often fail before we begin because when we have an idea to do something significant we don't believe it's possible for us, so we don't even try. But if we focus on going to bed a little bit better and wiser than when we first woke up, we'll make huge advancements over time. Sustain that over a lifetime, and you'll live a much greater life than you ever anticipated. You'll know you did not go through life unused.

~ Dr. Syed Asad



Muslim Reform Movement Organization

Quran Study by Zoom every other Sunday
2:30 - 4:30 p.m. **All are welcome!**
muslimreform@hotmail.com

Reformed Jumua prayer in person
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.



Together Again *By Christine Mankes*

Our new year of programming for the Interfaith Community of L.I. (IFCLI) is in full swing! This has been an exciting month filled with opportunities to

meet new, prospective families, as well as catch up with returning families.

Our Open House was on Sunday, September 10th. Children joined their peers to participate in religious education classes. This innovative model includes a Christian educator and a Jewish educator. Not only do children learn about both religious traditions, but they also are given the opportunity to connect with children that have interfaith parents. All of our classes are taught by two instructors: one of the Christian faith and one of the Jewish faith. The children meet for one hour in classrooms set up in Fellowship Hall.

While our children were attending classes, parents had the opportunity to participate in a question-and-answer session with

our community's faith leaders. Adults heard valuable information from Rev. Vicky Eastland (Pastor of Brookville Church), Rev. Enid Kessler (Spiritual Advisor to IFCLI), Rev. Bill McBride and Cantor Irene Failenbogen (Co-Directors of Education for IFCLI)

Our families, old and new, learned about various ways they can contribute to the success of our organization. Opportunities to contribute include: arranging holiday celebrations, social gatherings for adults, get-togethers for kids and serving on various committees, Not only am I proud to have been a member of IFCLI for over 13 years, I am also excited at the prospect of what this new year has in store for all of us!

Classes are available to children in grades pre-k through eighth grade. Visit interfaithli.org/religious-education for detailed information about classes for each grade level.



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

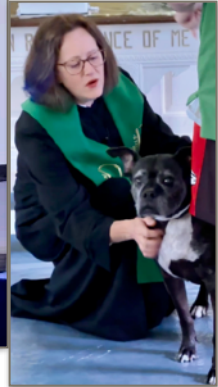
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ifcli>
 Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/interfaithcommunityli/>

Registration for membership and classes is still open. Our next religious education class is scheduled for Sunday, **October 15th from 11 AM - 12 PM**

Please let us know if you are attending by sending a message on our Facebook page at [facebook.com/ifcli](https://www.facebook.com/ifcli) or by using the contact form at our website interfaithli.org where you can also view our full calendar of exciting events!



Blessing of the Pets
Sept. 24,
2023



High Holiday Services at The New Synagogue of Long Island (NSLI) and The Makor Center for Spiritual Judaism in Manhattan

Rabbi Scott Matous is the rabbi for both NSLI and The Makor Center, so the high holiday services this year were hybrid, with Cantor Irene in Brookville and Rabbi Scott in Manhattan. During the services, Rabbi Scott coined the phrase, "one congregation, two locations." It is a unique opportunity for both places to share services together. It made for some technology challenges, but it was nothing that volunteers, Seth Cirker and Steven Schombs couldn't handle. (See Rev. Vicky's article about volunteers on our multifaitch campus on page 1).

As we navigate a new post pandemic world, we are learning new ways to worship together as some are joining our services from other parts of the world, ie. Holland and Argentina!

Thank you Cantor Irene Failenbogen and Rabbi Scott Matous for your faithful service to the G-d and providing a meaningful worship experience for all in attendance.



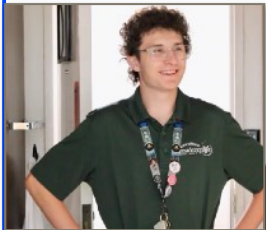
Ian Schombs blew the Shofar from SUNY Fredonia

BRAG BOX

We are so proud of William Kelleher who at age 14 published his first book: *Space Kid Fallen Allies*.



You can buy your own copy at rodedogbookstore.com. If you ask nicely, William may just autograph it for you. 😊



Evan Schombs is rocking his first semester at SUNY Oswego

He won four out of five awards for the Freshman Fest one-day short film challenge.

Way to go, Evan!



Congratulations to Hailey Schombs who was elected Elwood - John H. Glenn High School Marching Knights Drum Major 2023-2024!



We are so proud of you, Hailey!

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

Pop Up Pizza Restaurant By Thomas Conklin, Positive Behavior Support Educational Instructor

Students of all abilities from PTW "Positive Transitions to Work", a special two year program, operates out of the Center for Community Inclusion located on the campus of CW Post LIU. This program teaches soft work skills and career exploration to students who have recently graduated from high school with an IEP diploma.

On August 4th their Fun Fridays Program kicked off with a Pop Up Pizza Restaurant on Brookville Multifaith Campus. We were happy to host the event on our campus. Please see Thomas Conklin's write up below:

First year students of PTW orchestrated a fantastic grand opening of a restaurant called Pizza This Way. The event was to honor the second year students of PTW and to celebrate this group for accomplishing their upcoming graduation taking place in September. Students from the first year, worked for two weeks prior to the event formulating menu ideas, graphic design for logos, the print design of the menu, creating fun commercials for marketing, researching what tasks particular job positions carry out in a restaurant business, and watching food and kitchen safety videos to learn safeguards of this setting.



Thomas Conklin and Alyssa of Mimi's Kitchen of NY with one of the First Year students who helped run the kitchen



On the day of the event students met Ms. Alyssa of Mimi's Kitchen of NY who led the management of our kitchen located at Brookville Church and Multifaith Campus. We used the kitchen and community room for this "pop up restaurant" thanks to Rev. Vicky and Linda, the Administrative Assistant, who welcomed us with open arms and were so wonderful to us all. Rev. Vicky even stopped to meet and say hi to everyone! We didn't let her leave for the day without grabbing a slice of pizza! I will let the photos do the talking for this event which was an absolute smash!





Brookville Multifaith Campus
will host a

MEAL FOR PEACE

Sunday, October 15
12 PM

RSVP by
Oct. 10 at



Featured Speaker
JJ Tenclay
RCA Refugee
Ministries
Coordinator



An intentional gathering to learn more
about and be part of peace-building in
South Sudan.

2 Brookville Rd. Glen Head, NY 11545

This effort goes beyond providing the basics to help people survive - it offers them a chance to thrive.

Please come and enjoy some South Sudanese delicacies along with other foods from around the world. and consider how you can support this effort.

[Click to](#)
[reserve a](#)
[spot](#)

OCTOBER

22

2:00 PM

OY FATHER

The Makor Center
109 E 39th Stret
New York, NY 10016

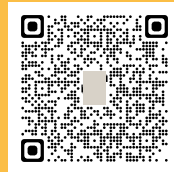


Come and see this musical
love story between a Catholic
Priest and a Jewish Cantor!

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

Tickets are \$25 each and are
available at the door or online at
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/oy-father-musical-comedy-tickets-722080561397?aff=oddtcreator>

For additional
info, call
646-592-7930



To perform in Manhattan has been a dream of the couple since the first performance of their musical love story at the Calliope Arts Center in Rosalyn.

Having been performed for years throughout Long Island, the show is being readied for a new audience in the place where Rabbi Scott Matous serves as rabbi.

We hope that members of the Brookville Multifaith Campus can make the trek to the "City" for an afternoon of fun featuring Cantor Irene's tunes and Rev. Bill's storytelling.



The Interfaith Institute of Long Island Presents 2023 Annual Award

Film Screening & Panel Discussion

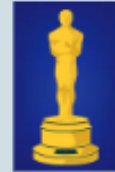
Richard A. McKinney
Featured Film Protagonist



Moderator and Panelist:
Daisy Khan, John Kiser, Zaki Bahrami,
Dr. Conrad Fischer



Awardee
Oscar Nominated
Filmmaker



Joshua Seftel
Director and Producer
Stranger at the Gate



Co-Sponsor: Hofstra
Muslim Student Association



Date: Sunday, October 29, 2023 at 2:00 -4:30 pm
Address: Leo A. Guthart Cultural Center Theater, South Campus,
Hofstra University, 900 Fulton Avenue, Hempstead, NY, 11550
Contact: Faroque Ahmad Khan: faroquekhan@outlook.com
Register here: <https://bitly.ws/TjTC>

The awardee Joshua Seftel produced the Oscar nominated documentary *Stranger at the Gate*, in addition to the awardee we will be joined in an interactive panel with Mac McKinley—the main character in the documentary along with representative of the Bahrami family and John Kiser and Dr Conrad Fisher the early supporters of the project.

On Sept. 29th, the Muslim Reform Movement Organization celebrated a Muslim wedding, performed by Imam Sultan for Dalia Elbasty and Terry Malone



Multifaith Thanksgiving Celebration

Sunday, November 12, 2023

2 PM

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



Hybrid Service

Join us in person: 2 Brookville Rd. Glen Head, NY 11545

or

Email brookvillemfc@gmail.com for the Zoom link

The Next Chapter



Living in a small town during World War II was interesting for a small boy, but I didn't really comprehend much of the war news. It seemed to me then, and I still remember it now, the men were all gone.

Five of my six uncles wore Navy uniforms. Grandma kept putting a flag in the window as each son was drafted and I do remember the emotions of that time. The flags were called Blue Star Banners and was a tradition started in WW 1 and is still kept going by the American Legion.



were doing separate things with different goals, but not so far as was expected because he went into Navy Air. One of his duty stations was in Bermuda and many years later we went there with our wives for a great time. When he was there the first time, the roads were not paved and motorcycles were the conveyance of choice. When Nancy and I started going there often with our family, we tried mopeds as most tourists did, but they were noisy and driving on the left as in England was even more confusing on the small bike. When one of children had a small sliding, skidding accident requiring a visit to the hotel nurse it convinced us to take the bus or taxi on the rest of our trips.

After training they all came home at different times to say goodbye - they knew they were headed to the Pacific to serve on warships. The next time we saw them, about five years later, the war was over and they packed away the uniforms. The boys, that's what Grandma still called them, very soon left the hometown for the Twin Cities - Minneapolis and St. Paul - where the jobs were waiting.

My brother and I had just started elementary school and everything there seemed to be the way the teachers wanted it to be so for us this was the way life must always be. Teachers would have the most influence in our lives ... starting with the first day of kindergarten -- I had to stay after school because during the rest period I misbehaved - not staying on the mat we were to rest on.

There were other teachers too. We saw them every Sunday and it was clear to us we were there to learn something not taught in school, but just as important. When we progressed out of children's classes there was a Youth Fellowship leader who taught us friendship, faith and fellowship would part of our life from then on. The whole experience of teachers of faith went with me as I entered the Academy and beyond. When we moved to Muttontown, a mile away from our church I became a Sunday School Teacher and even the leader of the teachers and the program which usually had 35-40 kids. The most rewarding thing that has stayed with me is that two year old children can be taught spiritual and God things. I did it for two years for an everlasting joy. To complete this story Nancy and I led the Youth Fellowship for several years. The high point was Clowns For Christ in which the kids dressed as clowns and did tricks and songs and told a little story or two. We even took the show on the road and performed at a church near Lake George, NY.

My brother and I were a school class apart and had entirely different interests. The consequences of that

I might have mentioned some time in the past that my eleven aunts and uncles all made annual trips in different parts of the U.S. to get together when they were older. Each year they were more committed to seeing each other as often as possible. I wondered what was driving this desire to be with family? Was it because they all grew up tight together - as six boys in two beds and across the hall six girls also in two beds? Each room had a 10"x12" vent in the floor to allow heat to rise up from the living room wood burning furnace. Or was it the summer hours spent in the large garden growing the next winters food?

Well, now I understand their desire to be together in their later years.. My brother and I slept in one bed for a long time. All of those years, from 1917 to 1950 there was an out house in the back, until the village put in a sewer line. We also worked in the garden, smaller than my aunt and uncle's garden, but just as hot and hard work.

This year Nancy and I had plans for our usual October vacation - a week in the Shenandoah Valley with one guest - a widow friend. My brother and his wife decided to join us and then decided to invite our children for a family reunion. Their first step was to assure reservations would be available for nine extra people. Everything fell into place and the first week of October is set for us to enjoy fall colors, picking pumpkins and apples, some will hike in the Blue Ridge Mountains and we all will watch the oldest son perform a magic show.

My brother had the same wonder about wanting to see family - just as our aunts and uncles did. It is a cliché to say we may not have a lot of times left to do it, but it is true and what we wanted to do this year.

~ Branch Worsham.

BEAT NAVY!