

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.

June
2024

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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Brookville Church

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Rev. Vicky L. Eastland
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The New Synagogue of Long Island

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The Interfaith Community of Long Island

ifcoflongisland@gmail.com Interfaithli.org



Rev. William McBride &
Cantor Irene Failenbogen
Directors of Education
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Rev. Enid Kessler
Spiritual Advisor
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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.

www.brookvillemultifaithcampus.org

Celebrating Weston Kalvert

The Interfaith Community of Long Island (IFCLI) is an important part of the Brookville Multifaith Campus and we are proud of the students who have graduated from their educational program. IFCLI was founded as a chapter of the main Interfaith Community of NYC in 2005 and for the past 19 years has been offering a dual-faith education for kids who come from Jewish/Christian homes. We draw families from all over Long Island and even parts of Queens and Brooklyn.



What makes our Long Island chapter unique is that it is also part of Brookville's Multifaith Campus, which is home to Brookville Church, The New Synagogue of Long Island and the Muslim Reform Movement Organization. Collectively these faith groups support one another by providing an open environment for learning, celebrating and honoring each distinct religion. All events are open to everyone. So our IFCLI students not only gain a Jewish/Christian education, they have the opportunity to worship in the church and synagogue and interact with Muslims on our campus.

Part of the education for these students is a two-year class called Identity and Transitions that they go through in their 7th and 8th grade years. It is taught by the Co-Directors of Education for IFCLI which happen to be an interfaith couple themselves and part of our campus clergy - Rev. Bill McBride and Cantor Irene Failenbogen (who is also the cantor of our synagogue). At the end of this unique two year class, these

students go through their own commencement ceremony, which is a time for them to share their own reflections on their faith journey and be celebrated for the completion of the educational program.

This year, Weston Kalvert had his ceremony on Sunday, May 19th. As one of the clergy supporting him and his parents, I wanted to write them a note and let you "look in," because they are forging a road others can and will follow.

~ Rev. Vicky

Weston, as an interfaith young adult, whether you have chosen one faith over the other or remain interfaith, you were raised to be a peacemaker in a world still impacted by religious hatred and violence. You are a bridge-builder who can create a healing bond between religions. My hope is that you will be motivated by your interfaith family to strive to repair our broken world. As you embrace your own complex identity, remember to let your light shine so the world can see God's love in you. Don't hide your light, instead, let it shine for all to see. Your light represents being born into two great religious traditions - that of Judaism and Christianity. Both religions are infused with compassion and social justice, learning and spirituality. So go forth from here and shine on!

Dave and Gayle, as Weston's parents I commend you for choosing the road less traveled. You have each made a personal commitment to stay connected to your own faith even though it is different from your spouses. You have worked hard and with great intention to educate your children in both religions. Thank you for your commitment to teach your children to respect and appreciate both faiths. Thank you for being role models for other interfaith families who will come behind you looking for direction and guidance as they navigate this challenging, yet enriching journey of raising children in a dual-faith home. May God bless you!

*With love and best wishes,
Rev. Vicky*



Rev. Enid, Cantor Irene,
Weston, Rev. Bill
and Rev. Vicky



Dave, Penelope, Weston, Colton and
Gayle Kalvert

Festival of Shavuot

The Torah teaches us that there are three occasions where we are to go to the Temple in Jerusalem and “appear before the sovereign Lord.” (Shemot 34:32) These three occasions, called Pilgrimage festivals, are Passover, Shavuot, and Sukkot. All of these have a connection to times of harvest in Israel as well as spiritual significance. Passover marks the beginning of the barley harvest, Shavuot is the beginning of the spring harvest, and Sukkot begins the autumn harvest.

It is fitting that when we were harvesting our crops from the field, God was also gathering us for very important blessings and spiritual connection. For example, we just celebrated Passover a few months ago and just as it marks the gathering of the barley from the field, it also marks the Lord harvesting us from an existence of restriction and slavery to an abundant life of milk and honey.

Then, seven weeks later, we have the festival of Shavuot, meaning weeks. It is called that because we count the seven weeks starting at Passover. Agriculturally, Shavuot is a time when we gather in The Seven Species (wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and dates.) In gematria (Jewish numerology) the number seven represents “completion”. The seven weeks represents the perfect amount of time for a specific event to culminate. Spiritually, Shavuot is when all the Israelites stood before Mt. Sinai and received the Torah. The Torah (meaning instruction or teaching) represents the Ketubah (marriage contract) between God and the Jewish people. God gathering all the people to be joined in a covenantal relationship with Him.

Lastly, the final Pilgrimage festival is Sukkot, the Fall festival. This marks the final harvest prior to the cooler weather and winter rains. This completes the agricultural year as well as our

spiritual year. Sukkot, following the High Holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is a time of rejoicing and gratitude for all our blessings due to God’s continued presence, protection, and provision.

This year in 2024, Shavuot begins at sundown on Tuesday June 11, 2024, and concludes at nightfall on Thursday, June 13, 2024. Some observances of this festival include studying the Torah for the entire night, teaching Torah to children, reading the Ten Commandments, reading the book of Ruth, and eating dairy foods such as cheesecake.



One of the names given to Shavuot is Zeman Matan Torateinu: The “Time of the Giving of Our Torah”. So it makes sense that we would study the Torah. But why would the Book of Ruth be read? What’s the significance and how does it relate to this specific festival? As mentioned earlier, Torah literally means instruction or teaching. It instructs us how

to have a covenantal relationship with God and represents a marriage contract (Ketubah) between God and the Jewish people. Ruth is a wonderful story of love, of loss, of faithfulness, and of redemption. It helps to remind us that entering or deepening our “marriage” or relationship to God, we can continue to experience love during our times of loss as well as redemption through our faithfulness.

May we all, during this spiritual harvest time, reap the blessings of peace, joy, love, health, and a closer connection to God by taking the time to receive the teachings and instructions of the Torah.

~ Rabbi Scott Matous

On Sunday, May 19, 2024, the Brookville Multifaith Campus and the Interfaith Community of Long Island celebrated the Identity and Transition Commencement of Weston Leif Kalvert.

Weston completed his religious education at the Interfaith Community of Long Island, led by Religious Education Directors, Cantor Irene Failenbogen and Reverend Bill McBride.

It was a beautiful ceremony, celebrating and honoring the two faiths - Christianity and Judaism. Here is Weston's speech, which he delivered during the ceremony:



Penelope, Weston and Colton Kalvert

"Good afternoon. Thank you for being here with me on this very special day. Today as I graduate from IFC, I am reading from the Torah like my dad did on his Bar Mitzvah at Temple Avodah in Oceanside. I am also reading from the gospel of Matthew and reciting the Lord's Prayer, just like my mom did at her Confirmation at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Baldwin.

Even though my mom and dad were raised in different religions, IFC has given me the opportunity to practice both faiths. Being able to carry on the traditions of both my parents is really meaningful to me.

Since I started classes here five years ago, I have made friends who are just like me. Each of us has parents from different faiths and we are stronger because of it. My parents, my teachers and the religious leaders here have taught me that "being both" is a gift.

Thank you Cantor Irene and Reverend Bill for preparing me for my commencement. Thank you to everyone at the Brookville Multifaith Campus for giving all of us a place to grow up and feel welcomed. Finally, thank you to my family and friends for being here today."

- Weston Leif Kalvert

During the ceremony, Weston's grandmothers lit a unity candle, just like they did when their son and daughter, Gayle and David Kalvert were married in 2007, signifying their dedication to supporting our wonderful, multifaith, family. Weston played a trumpet solo, and was joined by his brother, Colton Kalvert in playing the shofar.

Weston's family would like to thank Reverend Vicky Eastland and Reverend Enid Kessler for their special words during the ceremony, and support throughout Weston's time at the Interfaith Community of Long Island.

If anyone is interested in viewing the recording of the commencement, please reach out to Gayle Kalvert at gbkalvert@gmail.com



This article was adapted from an article by Sam Jones in [The Guardian](#), March 7, 2024

Islamic and Jewish science merge in 11th-century astrolabe

In 2023 Federica Gigante, a research associate at Cambridge University's history faculty and a former curator of Islamic scientific instruments at Oxford University's History of Science Museum, had stumbled on a remarkable astrolabe that has passed through Muslim, Jewish and Christian hands in Spain, North Africa and Italy in the 10 centuries since it was constructed in Andalucía.

Its engravings, first in Arabic script, then in Hebrew, tell the story of how knowledge was created, shared and developed by Islamic and Jewish scholars living and working side by side in al-Andalus, the Muslim-ruled area of the Iberian peninsula.

Islamic art is Gigante's forte, but she knew enough of the Hebrew alphabet to spot that someone had translated the original Arabic names of the astrological signs on the astrolabe into Hebrew. The star positions on the instrument matched those on astrolabes made in the 1060s and 1070s, while another of its plates is engraved with latitudes in north Africa, suggesting that whoever was in possession of the device at that time lived in the region or travelled there frequently. "There's an added dedication or signature to the object, that reads: 'For Isaac, the work of Jonah'," she said. "They're both Jewish names so it's very likely



that by then, the astrolabe had ended up in Jewish ownership. But it's interesting that it's written in Arabic. Although it was probably in the hands of some Jews, Arabic was the lingua franca and was used by Jews as much as Muslims and Christians."

According to Gigante, the Hebrew additions suggest the astrolabe eventually left Spain or north Africa and began circulating among the Jewish diaspora in Italy, where Hebrew, rather than Arabic, was used.

Gigante, who has just published an article about the Verona astrolabe in the journal *Nuncius*, said finding the device had been perfect for her research into how Islamic artifacts, technology and decoration travelled into Europe. "[The discovery never happened before and it probably won't happen again," she said. "We know that in 11th-century Spain, Jews and Muslims and Christians were working alongside each other, especially in the scientific media, and that many Jewish scientists were sponsored and patronized by Muslim rulers with no concern for their religion. "It's not that this instrument tells us this for the first time. All this is known, but what I find extraordinary is that this is a very tangible, physical proof of that history."

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 June 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.

You can drop your donations off at the Brookville Church office during the month of June. We just ask that you call the office first at (516) 626-0414 to make sure someone is available to receive your donation.

If you prefer to donate money toward this effort, we would be happy to purchase these items for you. You can either **Venmo** your monetary donation to: @Brookville-Church (7478) indicating that it is for diapers and baby wipes or you can drop off a check or cash to the office, again calling ahead of time.

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.

www.brookvillemultifaithcampus.org



SYNAGOGUE OF THE MONTH VIRTUAL SHABBAT SERVICE 5784

The New Synagogue of Long Island
The Synagogue for Spiritual Judaism
Rabbi Scott Matous, Cantor Irene Failenbogen

Synagogue of the Month Virtual Shabbat Service at 7 PM

Please join us on **Friday, June 14, 2024**

All are welcome!

We have no membership dues or fees, but we do rely on your support and commitment! Please give as generously as you can. Your contributions are the lifeblood of our synagogue. You can help us keep alive our inspiring teachings of Spiritual Judaism.

Use these links below:

[Print the form and mail it to us!](#)

[Donate online](#) [Zoom Invitation](#)

[Shabbat Service Booklet](#)

[Synagogue of the Month](#)

Email: newsynagogue.li@gmail.com

Website: www.newsynagogue-li.org



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 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:

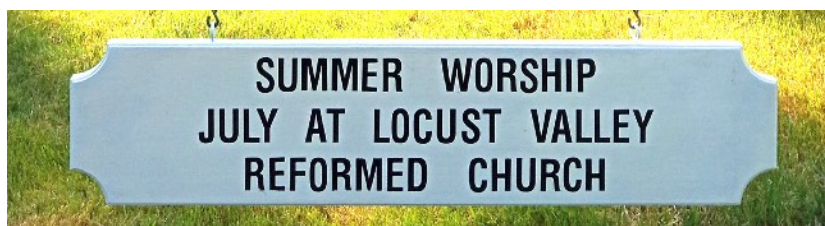
Imam Sultan Abdulhameed, author of
"The Quran & the Life of Excellence"

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



BRAG BOX

Congratulations to the following graduates who have a connection to Brookville Church and Multifaith Campus. We are proud of their accomplishments and wish them all the best in their future endeavors!

Rachel Worsham - Bachelor of Education in Math from Georgetown University



Georgia Leppard - High School Graduate from St. Mary's - Manhasset



Jordan Monaco - Graduate of Cornell University



Maddy Cirker - Bachelor in Music Production (with a year to spare) from Elon University



Elena Latzen - Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy from The Fletcher School at Tufts University

Brag Box



Michael McBride -
Summa Cum Laude -
Bachelor in
Accounting from
Queens College

Lila Racey - Magna Cum
Laude from the University
of Buffalo



Lila will start doctoral
studies in clinical
psychology in the fall.

Ian Schombs -
Bachelor in Music
Education from
Fredonia State
University



Thank you to Rigo Melara who
repainted the kitchen after the
ceiling was repaired



Congratulations to Rev. Das Rendla on his Ordination as Minister of
Word and Sacrament in the Reformed Church in America and his
installation as the Minister of New Hope Community Church on
Sunday, May 19, 2024. Rev. Das was presented with a robe by Rev.
James Eastland



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

www.brookvillemultifaithcampus.org

Coexist Craft & Collectibles Fair

at the

Brookville Multifaith Campus

Bake sale

Brookville Reformed Church,
2 Brookville Rd., Bkvl 11545

Raffles

Sat June 8, '24
10am - 3pm

Second hand
Treasures

Vendors Wanted

Contact:

516-695-1123

LMDenison24@gmail.com

[\(click to email\)](mailto:LMDenison24@gmail.com)



All Campus Picnic Sunday, June 9, 11 AM Brookville Multifaith Front Lawn

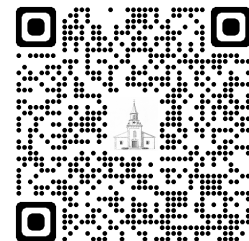


Join us for:

- ☒ Food
- ☒ Fun
- ☒ Friendships
- ☒ Ice cream truck

**RSVP and sign up to bring
something -
scan this code:**

Or [Click to RSVP](#)



Muslim Reform Movement Organization invites you to Eid prayer.

**Sunday,
June 16, 2023,
10:00 AM**

Refreshments
will be served.

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

FELLOWSHIP HALL

**Eid Al-Adha
MUBARAK**

Open
to ALL!

Made with PosterMyWall.com



Registration Open

www.campwarwick.org



DAY CAMP

Completing K-8th grade

Week 1

July 1-5

Week 2

July 8-12

Waitlist Started

Week 3

July 15-19

Waitlist Started

Week 4

July 22-26

Waitlist Started

Week 5

July 29-August 2

Week 6

August 5-9

Week 7

August 12-16

Week 8

August 19-23



CAMP SUNRISE

Adults 18-55 y/o

Full

Week 1

June 30-July 5

Week 2

July 7-12

Week 3

July 14-19

Week 4

July 21-26

Week 5

Full

July 28-August 2

The Next Chapter



Four years ago, during spring and summer - 2020, Nancy and I were moving to our retirement home in Toms River, NJ. At the same time other homes in that area became vacant as the residents passed away and their families moved out the belongings. That was how our purchase became available. There is a huge amount of activity with the coming and going in the area's over 3,000 homes built in the 1970's. We settled into a six room bungalow that has been a pleasure to live in.

While we were bringing with us the most cherished and desired furniture, there were still several things left for our kids to take to their homes. In the new community there are yard sales - usually in April to October - which often are a signal that those houses will be sold soon and new owners will arrive. In many cases the remaining family will take what they want and yard sale the rest. Often they will leave large pieces of furniture outside, on the curb, for anyone to pick up if their vehicle is large enough.

On one weekend of that first 2020 summer our son-in-law was driving in the community and found a curbside treasure. Our new house had a large back deck for which we had no furniture. He saw and captured a large round glass topped table with a wooden mahogany base. It was obviously an indoor piece. We don't remember if he got any chairs, but I know that I soon found two at another home. After I spray painted all of the wood and plastic parts Emerald Green we had a perfect outdoor dining area!

Someday our children will have to divvy up the furniture we are currently living with and enjoying



in our old age. With our now adult children, we all remember past conversations connected to the inevitable future. Those discussions are not painful, but are forthright and useful whether with us or amongst the siblings.

A significant enjoyment of Nancy's is reading. She reads one or two books a week and then what to do with them has become a problem. Here's a picture of her books. Counterclockwise from the right. A tall rack has unread books of all sorts that we brought here. On the left (straight ahead) in an antique Barristers Bookcase are special family books going back years, On the left, next to the window are books she has read and nobody really wants; especially libraries.



For nearly twenty years we have been going to a very small country town in the far west of Virginia that has a fall festival we enjoy visiting. Nancy especially heads for the town library's book sale. Their charge for books used to be per book, then per bag and last year it was whatever we wish to give per bag. We are planning to go there again in October. Here in Ocean County, New Jersey there are 21 library locations and one more opening this summer. Last fall one of their locations collected all of their books for sale and they wanted \$5 for the first bag and any other bags we had to fill would be free. So, you see getting rid of books we have read are hard to give away.

Continued next page...

The Next Chapter

To satisfy my curiosity I looked up some book publishing information. There are 500,000 to 1 million Publishing House books produced and 1.5 to 2 million self published books and still more with self published but not recorded in the national library records is another million. The total is 4,000,000. But published and printed and SOLD is a story that could fill another page here.

I do like to read books also, but I am slow, usually reading myself to sleep. This year I might have finished two, I am not sure. I'm going to read more when I advance from semi-retired to fully retired, if that ever happens.

On a different subject, a recent special occasion at the Brookville Church deserves a commendation. On Sunday May 25th there was a Memorial Day Worship Service that moved me more than I have been on any previous Memorial Day Service. In 1948 I became a member of the High School Band and by the end of that school term I was proficient enough to play in the band for the annual town Memorial Day Parade and after a bus ride to the cemetery there was more somber music. That event was repeated for the next six years until I graduated and never played the saxophone again. That was my initiation to Memorial Day and I did not appreciate it at all.

I cannot remember how West Point did an appropriate Memorial Day recognition, but we did something which didn't stick with me. When I got out of the service Memorial Day did not reach into my mind or heart even though I was an active member for many years and went to church on that day. My lack of interest even got worse. When we got our first cruising boat in about 1979, Memorial Day became the first day to take the boat out for the weekend, and we did that for nearly twenty years. Giving up the boat did not improve my respect for Memorial Day or Veterans even though I was a vet myself. Respect came in 2024.

Our Organist, Carol Goglia, and her friend, Gerry O'Brien, wanted to get more involved this year for the Memorial Day Service. Their planned improvement was to give everyone who was present a poppy flower and read to them the poem, In Flanders Fields. I was just barely familiar with it because of the somber music and Cemetery program of 70 years before.



During their planning, Gerry remembered me and they sent a poppy flower which arrived in time to wear at the service as I logged in via Zoom. I am telling you of this because, at last, I was moved by the sanctuary service and the poppy flower. Later that Sunday I promised Carol and Gerry that I would support them and hopefully make 2025's Sunday Memorial Day even more significant for all of us.

I wanted make the day, the event, last longer so I replanted my paper poppy with some miniature roses. My thanks go out to Carol and Gerry who gave me a proper appreciation for Memorial Day.

~Branch Worsham