

# Brookville

## Multifaith Campus

### NEWS

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

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

July  
2025

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](mailto:Brookvillemfc@gmail.com)

#### *Brookville Church*

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

#### *The Interfaith Community of Long Island*

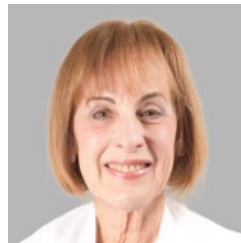
[ifcoflongisland@gmail.com](mailto:ifcoflongisland@gmail.com) [Interfaithli.org](http://Interfaithli.org)



Rev. William McBride &  
Rabbi Irene Failenbogen  
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Rev. Enid Kessler  
Spiritual Advisor  
[interfaith4you@gmail.com](mailto:interfaith4you@gmail.com)



#### *Muslim Reform Movement*

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



Dr. Syed Asad, Co-Founder  
[mmsglobalfoundation.org/](http://mmsglobalfoundation.org/)

#### **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.



## Guest Columnist, Jasia Mirza

I Am Jasia Mirza, and This Is My Journey

**A message of faith, resilience, and purpose—  
for every young soul seeking light through  
darkness.**

I came to the United States in the early 1990s, carrying the hopes and dreams of building a brighter future for myself and my family. Like so many immigrants, I believed in the promise of opportunity. But the early years were far from easy. Behind closed doors, my home was not a sanctuary—it was a place of fear and pain. I was not safe, and neither were my daughters.

But by the grace of Allah, and with the unwavering support of my two girls, I found the strength to walk away. To break the silence. To reclaim our lives. That moment marked the beginning of a journey not just of survival—but of transformation.

### **From Survivor to Educator: Finding Purpose Through Service**

Today, I am a licensed educator in New York State. But my path was not paved in certainty—it was built through struggle, prayer, and service. Before entering the classroom, I immersed myself in grassroots work, learning from communities where resilience and hope were everyday necessities.

At the Domestic Harmony Foundation (<https://dhfny.org/>), I worked behind the scenes to support survivors like me.

With the Hance Family Foundation (<https://www.hancefamilyfoundation.org/>), I helped nurture young minds through the Self Esteem Rising program—teaching confidence, empathy, and emotional strength. These experiences taught me that healing happens not in isolation, but through connection, education, and compassion.

### **Education as a Legacy of Love and Liberation**

As a mother of two extraordinary daughters—now graduates of institutions like Columbia, Yale, Penn, and Johns Hopkins—I have witnessed firsthand the liberating power of knowledge. Their accomplishments are not just academic—they are spiritual victories, born from faith, sacrifice, and the belief that we are never defined by our past.

It was through them that I realized something profound: if we want to uplift women, we must begin by shaping hearts and minds from an early age. That realization didn't just lead me into education. It turned education into my mission—to raise a generation that is brave, compassionate, and grounded in purpose.

### **Healing Through Faith: A Survivor's Testimony**

My story is also one of deep spiritual healing. As a survivor of domestic violence, there were many nights when I felt broken—disconnected from my Creator, uncertain of how I would ever find peace. But with time, I came to understand that Allah never abandons His servants. Even in pain, there is mercy. Even in despair, there is light.

*"Allah does not burden a soul beyond what it can bear." (Qur'an 2:286)*

Faith is not the absence of struggle—it is the strength to endure it. The fears, the doubts, the endless "what ifs"—they nearly paralyzed me. But I've learned that hope is not weakness—it is faith in motion. When we lean into hope, we are leaning into the promise of Allah's mercy and justice.

continued next page...

## Guest columnist, Jasia Mirza, continued

### Rising Together: A Call to Young Women and Men

My journey taught me this vital truth: empowering one woman can change generations. But if we are to transform our world, we must go further. We must teach our sons as we teach our daughters. We must open space for men to heal, to listen, and to lead with integrity and compassion.

True change happens when we rise together—not in competition, but in unity.

To every young person reading this—especially those navigating hardship or identity struggles:  
You are not alone. Your pain is not pointless. And your story is not over.

You have been created with purpose. Allah has already placed within you the strength you're searching for.

### In Closing: From Wounds to Wisdom

Looking back, I now see every hardship as a chapter in a divine story—written not to break me, but to shape me. My daughters' love gave me courage. My faith gave me direction. And my community gave me purpose.

So I share this not as a tale of suffering, but as a testimony of triumph. If I could rise, so can you.

You are not just meant to survive. You are meant to lead, to heal, and to inspire.

This article was written for MMS Global Foundation website  
[mmsglobalfoundation.org](https://mmsglobalfoundation.org)



We enjoyed having Dr. Syed Asad join us during worship at Brookville Church in May to share about his non-profit, MMS Global Foundation, with the vision of restoring excellence for Muslim renaissance and economic empowerment. We value Dr. Syed's friendship and partnership with our multifaith campus!



## Remembering Imam Dr. Sultan Hameed

It is with profound sadness that we gather to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Sultan Hameed, a cherished friend, a dedicated colleague, and a role model whose presence enriched us all. I first came to know Dr. Hameed during the formative years of the Islamic Center of Long Island (ICLI) in the mid 80's where his unwavering commitment played a pivotal role in shaping the ICLI.

In my book titled *Story of a Mosque*, Dr. Hameed contributed a whole chapter titled "Educational Programs: Children, Adults—Limitations and Future Possibilities", which laid the foundation for ICLI's educational framework. In addition, his expertise was instrumental in drafting the ICLI by-laws.

Dr. Hameed not only served as a board member but also as the president of ICLI, guiding it with insight, integrity and vision.

He was a beacon of light who uplifted all who worked alongside him.

Today, we pay tribute not only to his many contributions but also to the deep and lasting imprint he left on ICLI, our team and our hearts..

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) taught us: *When a person dies, all their deeds come to an end except three--ongoing charity, beneficial knowledge and a righteous child who prays for them (Sahih Muslim 1631).*

Dr. Hameed embodied these virtues. He was a man of few words, soft spoken yet powerful in his influence. His humility, kindness, and genuine care for others made everyone heard,

valued, and respected. Whether it was a thoughtful word of encouragement, a listening ear, or a shared laugh, he brought positivity and warmth into every interaction. His gentle spirit was a gift we will carry with us always.

### Honoring His Legacy

As we move forward, let us strive to uphold the values Dr. Hameed so gracefully lived by:

excellence in action, compassion in leadership, and dedication to interfaith understanding. His legacy lives not only in the structures he helped build but in the lives he touched and the ideals he championed.



### A Final Reflection

The passing of a soul as remarkable as Dr. Hameed leaves a deep void. Yet we take comfort in knowing that his impact endures—in our hearts, in our work, and in the many lives shaped by his wisdom and grace. We are better, kinder, and more inspired for having known him.

May Allah grant him the highest place in Jannah.

*Inna Lillah Wa inna ilaihi Raje'oon.*

"Indeed we belong to Allah and we shall return to Him."

*~ Dr. Faroque A. Khan. Chair - Interfaith Institute of Long Island., June, 2025*

## Remembering Imam, Dr. Sultan Hameed



Dr. Sultan was a man of great integrity and deep compassion. He devoted his life to the cause of equality within the Muslim faith, boldly advocating for women and for those often marginalized, including members of the LGBTQ+ community. His work left a lasting impact on countless lives.

Dr. Sultan was a steadfast supporter of our Multifaith Campus, offering encouragement and wise counsel to the three faith groups. He always emphasized that we should celebrate the similarities in our faith traditions—lifting up the shared values that unite us even amid our differences. His presence brought clarity and cohesion during times of challenge, and his leadership fostered a spirit of respect and collaboration across traditions.

A devout Muslim, Dr. Sultan was always teaching, always striving for reform, and always modeling a life of spiritual depth and ethical commitment. His book, *The Quran and The Life of Excellence*, has shaped and inspired many, myself included.

I admired him deeply, saw him as a mentor, and valued our friendship and collegiality for more than 13 years. He is profoundly missed.

~ Rev. Vicky Eastland



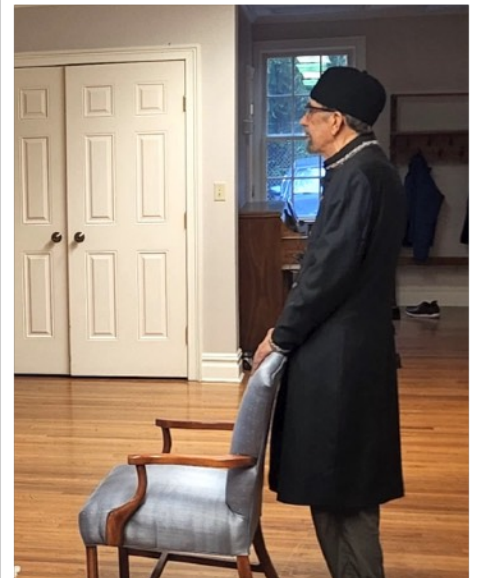
## Remembering Imam, Dr. Sultan Hameed

Dr. Sultan Hameed was one of the few people among us who gave a lot more than he took from others. In fact, no one who knows him can think of a time when he asked for anything. He always gave. He gave his time, money and wisdom to anyone who asked him for it. If we were to count the number of people whose life he transformed with his time, money and wisdom, the number would be in the thousands. From his teaching career at Stony Brook University, to his work with the Domestic Harmony Committee at the Islamic Center of Long Island to his 25 years of service to the Muslim Reform Movement, his life is an excellent example of how to dedicate oneself to the service of others.

Dr. Sultan Hameed was purpose driven. He wanted nothing more deeply than to do whatever he could to uplift Muslims by changing their thinking. His understanding of Islam and Muslims was exceptional. Many don't know this, but he started his education at an Islamic Seminary. His recitation of the Quran was immaculate but most importantly, his understanding of the Quran and Sunnah was unparalleled.

Finally, one of the most amazing characteristics about Dr. Hameed was that he was not afraid to think differently. He was able to explain the essence of Islam in a way that has helped people completely change their lives for the better. His book, *The Quran and The Life of Excellence* is about reform in Islam and has impacted its readers' lives in a profound way. His teaching will live on for many years to come and continue to help people transform their lives.

~ Yousuf Siddiqui



## Remembering Imam, Dr. Sultan Hameed



I remember sitting in on several of Sultan's Sunday meetings and got to know him and some of his regular members, but even better, I got to know Islam as a part of their lives and his teaching.

The one thing he said a few times has been on my mind many times because he taught me the sincerity of his belief. Sultan's Sunday sessions were held in the Fellowship Room and he would raise his arms and extend them left and right and solemnly say, I believe this room and the Sanctuary next to this place are Holy and should be respected as Holy first and then consider what the secondary use might be.

~ Branch Worsham



## *Remembering Imam, Dr. Sultan Hameed*



## Remembering Imam, Dr. Sultan Hameed



Dr. Sultan taught me what has come to be my favorite verse from the Quran: "There is calamity for those who are praying who are absent-minded in their prayer."

I will miss his deep knowledge, always expressed with great gentleness.

~ Linda Hees, Brookville Church Administrative Assistant



Join the  
**New Synagogue  
of Long Island**  
for

**In-person Shabbat Service  
Friday, Sept. 5, 6:30 PM**

To celebrate Rabbi Irene Failenbogen's  
Ordination as Rabbi

**Interfaith Community of LI**

New members are always welcome! Please send us an  
email at [ifcoflongisland@gmail.com](mailto:ifcoflongisland@gmail.com)

or message us on our Instagram  
<https://www.instagram.com/interfaithcommunityli/>

or Facebook page [www.facebook.com/ifcli/](https://www.facebook.com/ifcli/)

**Muslim Reform  
Movement Organization**



**Virtual Quran Study**  
every other Sunday, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
All are welcome!

**hybrid** - come in person to the Brookville  
Multifaith Campus Fellowship Hall, or join online.  
To be invited to the Quran study via Zoom, please email  
[muslimreform@hotmail.com](mailto:muslimreform@hotmail.com)

*Brookville Church  
Summer 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

**SUMMER WORSHIP  
JULY AT LOCUST VALLEY  
REFORMED CHURCH**

**Support Brookville Church thru**

**Givebutter**

[https://givebutter.com/  
Sh1iYB](https://givebutter.com/Sh1iYB)



**Venmo**

**@Brookville-  
Church  
(7478)**



***Death Cafe'***

Join us at  
11:30 AM  
Sundays

**July 20  
Aug. 24**

It's a space where people  
can come together to talk openly  
about death and dying, without  
judgement or any agenda.

What is  
Death  
Cafe'?



**Brookville Multifaith Campus**  
2 Brookville Rd. Glen Head, NY 11545  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

## Congratulations to Rabbi Irene Failenbogen on her ordination on June 26!



## The Next Chapter



The other day I saw an ad for a tee shirt that had this message on it:



That resonated with many visual aspects of the people I encounter every day because I think they do look different from how I think I look. I notice many of them walk slowly, cautiously and now and then I have done that too. Stepping down at a curb needs attention and just yesterday I was in a department store and took the escalator up one level and had to abort that as a return trip down and found an elevator at the other end of the store for a safe ride down.

My son, BJ, recently did a peculiar math exercise which showed that people born in my era (1936) died at about 77-78 years old. Based on Social Security data the average number of years of life remaining for members of the 1936 cohort at each specific age can be calculated. The figure typically used for the "average age at death" of a cohort is their life expectancy at birth.

However those of us from the time of 1935-1940 got a surprise increase in the estimate and a greater number, including me, are still living thus showing the estimate was incorrect. Here I am at age 89 headed somewhat safely to 90. The people who work the numbers as the basis for Social Security benefits are still looking at our continued aging. BJ suggests that I was given 13 bonus years and have more to come. They haven't corrected the estimate charts yet as long as our cohort continues to live beyond the "average age at death".

Several times this year I have been prompted by messages about my classmates who have died in recent months; they are hard reminders that my turn is coming. In February I turned 89 and the next age is the first significant year for most senior

citizens. Living and working were my entire existence until 2020 when we moved to New Jersey for the retirement that never came due to Covid-19. Nancy is an avid fan of longevity and has predicted we would reach 90 and likely more because of multiple factors that support added years ahead. Regardless of the charts and computations we are still living and credit genes and healthy behavior for it.

When I look in a mirror I see the same face I have always had, but when I see an old picture I cannot associate the younger me with the guy in the mirror. There is a sadness that touches me whenever any elder person is announced as passed. It doesn't matter if they are older or younger it just adds a little more to the burden of sadness I have for that person and others and their families.

Now I have unburdened my thoughts and problems onto you readers. I am not done with these concerns and expect I will write more. For sure we are filled with joy that we do not feel as old as we are. Praise God for His Grace.

*~Branch Worsham.*

### BRAG BOX

**Thank you Rigo for all you do to maintain this campus!**



Do you have exciting news to share ... special accomplishment, performance or graduation? Please send a note and picture before July 20 to [brookvillechurch@gmail.com](mailto:brookvillechurch@gmail.com)