

Brookville

Multifaith Campus

NEWS



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

January
2024

One house, many faiths, endless opportunities for growth!

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516-626-0414

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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.

How Things Change

Years ago, the big challenge in most churches was the battle between contemporary versus traditional music in the worship services. Many churches opted for a blended style of worship of both traditional and contemporary in the same service. That is what my previous church in upstate New York chose to do.

I look back on those days and see how much life has changed, especially since the pandemic. Prior to COVID, I had not even heard the term, "hybrid worship." Now, it is the catch phrase most people use.

When it was time to move back to in person worship after being virtual for well over a year, I knew that life as we had always known it in the church had to change. We had to adapt to a new way of doing things. I knew that moving forward together would look much different because during the time we were a virtual church, we had retained and gained attendees who no longer lived in the area and thus our hybrid worship was birthed.

In the beginning of our hybrid days, there were so many challenges with technology and learning how to blend two groups of people, those online and those in person. It was always my goal to help everyone feel included and so we have a projector for those in person to see those on Zoom. During our sharing of joys and concerns each Sunday I try and encourage those in person to come forward so those who are Zooming in can see and hear them. We will be forever learning how to make this better as time goes on.

One way that this new blended way of doing church together worked to our advantage recently, happened literally hours before our children and youth led Christmas service was about to happen. We discovered that the majority of the youth had fallen ill. Carol Goglia, our amazing Minister of Music, really rose to the challenge as she always does and the "show went on." Instead of having to cancel the service and the hard work the kids had put into preparing, Carol flipped the hybrid and had only one family in person and the rest were on Zoom, doing their parts from their respective homes.

We wanted to share part of the script from this service because it is so timely in looking at the gifts the world needs. Our youth are the generation to lead the way.

So here is an excerpt from our youth led Christmas service from December 17, 2023:



After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Wise People from the East came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

We couldn't find frankincense and myrrh on Amazon and our parents wouldn't give us their gold.... So we are presenting our own gifts to give to the baby Jesus.

*We present the gift of **Peace**. We know our generation must change the world and rid it of violence. There will be conflicts and differing opinions, but we know that peace is not the absence of conflict; it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means. We can create a more peaceful world by being generous, kind, respectful of our earth, help feed the hungry, be honest, find nonviolent solutions to problems, be more loving, help the poor, and be forgiving.*

*We present the gift of **Understanding**. We will learn and accept people of all nations, colors, and religious beliefs. We can do this by asking questions, getting involved in our communities, being respectful, treating others as we would like to be treated, learning nonviolent ways to communicate, and always growing through knowledge.*

*We present the gift of **Compassion**. We will speak with kindness, listen carefully, and encourage other people, offer to help others who are in need, be happy for someone else's success, accept people for who they are, and forgive people for making mistakes.*

Let us truly bring Peace, Understanding and Compassion to others in this New Year!

We Wish Everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year!

*The youth of our multifaith campus,
Carol Goglia and Rev. Vicky*

Singing for Joy

So, here we are! 2023 has ended, and we have begun the new year of 2024. While we do have the Jewish New Year of Rosh Hashanah, where we take stock of our lives and prepare for the spiritual cleansing of Yom Kippur; this standard (or secular) calendar is also important to contemplate, as we live by this calendar in our daily lives. Therefore, now can be a very important time for us to reflect on our lives and to consider the joys and sorrows of 2023. This year, January coincides with the first four Torah portions of the book of Exodus.

Just as there are highs and lows throughout the year, there are highs and lows in the Exodus story. The story begins just after we see that Jacob, Joseph, and the entire family are reunited and the entire region is saved from famine. Then, a new Pharaoh who does not know Joseph rises to power and enslaves all the Hebrews, fearing that they are becoming too powerful. The slavery is brutal, and the newborn males are being put to death. Miraculously, however, a Hebrew male (Moses) is born and saved by Pharaoh's daughter, who adopts and raises him in the palace. It appears that there will be some sort of deliverance through Moses until he sees an Egyptian beating a Hebrew slave, loses his temper, and kills him. Moses then has to flee to Midian to prevent Pharaoh from putting him to death for murder.

Moses is taken in by Jethro, marries his daughter (Tziporah) and spends forty years shepherding his flock. So, now things don't look so good regarding Moses freeing the Hebrews from slavery because Moses is gone and forgotten. One day while shepherding, Moses sees a burning bush, stops, turns to look at it, and hears a message from God to return to Egypt and tell Pharaoh to let the Hebrews go free since their time of redemption has arrived. Now, things are looking brighter again in regards to eventual freedom for the enslaved Hebrews.

Moses arrives in Egypt, teams up with his brother, Aaron, and his sister, Miriam. Moses and Aaron continually approach Pharaoh, as God directs them, telling him to let the Hebrews go from slavery so they can worship God in the wilderness. Each

time Pharaoh denies them their freedom; and a plague, a miraculous calamity, ensues until Pharaoh relents (only to change his mind again). This all occurs over a period of time exhausting both the Egyptians and the Hebrews. Finally, after the 10th plague (on Passover), Pharaoh agrees to let the Hebrews go free and to go worship the Lord in the wilderness. Thus begins the freedom of the Hebrews from slavery and their journey to the Promised Land. This is very exciting and everything looks great . . . until Pharaoh changes his mind again and sets out with his chariots to overtake the Hebrews. The Egyptian chariots reach the Hebrews where they are encamped by the Red Sea. Now, everything looks terrible, for this appears to be certain death. The Hebrews are petrified and wish they were back in slavery. God tells Moses to move forward. As they are moving forward, the sea parts and the Hebrews cross safely. After they cross the Red Sea, the Egyptian chariots start to chase the Hebrews; and as they cross, they are stuck in the mud. Then the water returns, drowning them. It's a miraculous redemption – a time for gratitude and celebration. “And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines, dancing.”

This miraculous event and time of thanksgiving is called Shabbat Shirah (Shabbat of Song) and occurs from sundown, January 26th, to sundown, January 27th. It is a time of reflecting, rejoicing, celebrating, and thanking God for all that He has brought us through safely. Was the road smooth and easy? No. Was this a time of challenges and growth? Yes. Is there still a journey of challenges and blessings ahead for the Hebrews? Yes, there are both challenges and blessings ahead. Just as we have our journeys of challenges and blessings ahead in 2024. However, during this month of January, as we move toward Shabbat Shirah, may we reflect, rejoice, celebrate, and thank God for all that God has brought us through. Let us sing loudly together, from the depths of our hearts and souls, for the blessings of dividing the waters and bringing us through 2023 and into 2024.

Love and Blessings, ~ *Rabbi Scott Matous*

Some Interesting Aspects of the Quran

The Quran is divided into 114 surahs. But the surahs are not 'chapters' in the traditional sense because that would suggest that the individual surahs address particular topics, which is not generally the case. The Quran is arranged in the manner it is because Prophet Muhammad did not compose the Quran. Rather, the Quran is a collection of revelations that Prophet Muhammad received from God from the age of about forty to the time of his passing twenty three years later. As new verses were revealed to the prophet he inserted them according to the guidance he received. For this reason the Quran cannot be arranged chronologically, because many surahs contain verses revealed at different times.

Another interesting aspect of Quran's style is that, with rare exceptions, it does not focus on a particular topic for an extended length. The topic can change after a few lines of the text. The Quran addresses individuals, communities, and sometimes mankind as a whole. The multiplicity of audiences and topics that the Quran addresses, sometimes in quick succession, can be confusing to someone used to reading essays or stories.

This does not mean the Quran lacks overall coherence. In fact it possesses a remarkable inner unity. Unlike the Bible, whose various books were composed by many people at different times, the Quran is a collection of revelations from God to only one person, the Prophet Muhammad over a twenty three year period.

There are some themes that occur frequently in the Quran. It commonly describes itself as a book of guidance. All topics addressed in the Quran aim, ultimately, to guide people to God: to know the attributes of God, that there is only one God

who is the supreme authority in the Universe, that God answers prayer, He is aware of what we do and think, that it will help us if we are grateful to God and worship Him sincerely and regularly, and that we do our best to live according to His injunctions.

Belief in the immortality of the soul, Resurrection, and an ultimate accounting of each soul before God is emphasized throughout the Quran. In order to induce people to live righteously, the Quran gives vivid descriptions of pleasures of Paradise.

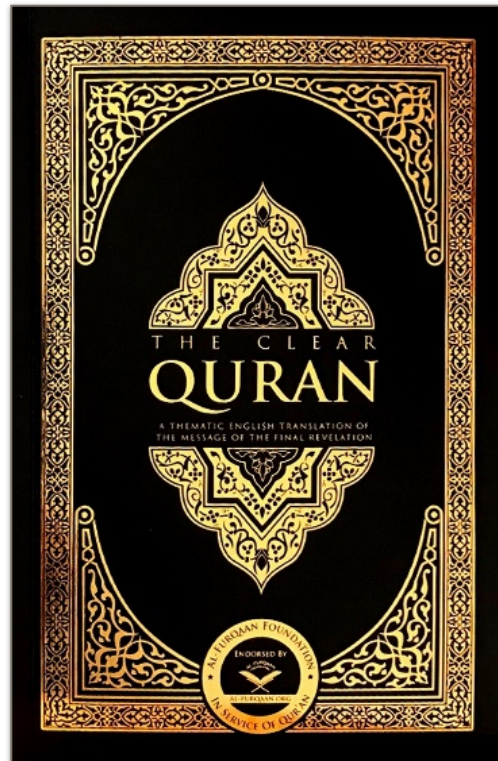
It also warns of the consequences of immoral choices by describing the suffering of those whose actions will lead to Hell.

The Quran is opposed to detaching yourself from the world in order to seek spiritual awareness. It is by engaging in the struggle to do what is right and good in all spheres of our lives and in all circumstances — in the family, in the work place and in the community that we develop spiritual depth and awareness. We have to maintain our faith even in challenging situations, be patient in times of difficulty and ask for God's help.

The Quran stresses that each individual will be compensated for his or her choices. It urges people to cooperate with others in doing good and work to uplift the disadvantaged and establish justice.

The Quran frequently describes stories of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Mary, Jesus and other prophets as righteous guides sent by God to uplift mankind. However, their description in the Quran are many times different from those in the Bible. The Quran also says that God has sent messengers to guide all nations.

~ Imam Sultan Abdulhameed





It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together...but encouraging one another..." Hebrews 10:24-25



My daughter's favorite pop star (and admittedly, I'm a fan too) said, "Just because you made a good plan, doesn't mean that's what's gonna happen." Your IFCLI Steering Committee and volunteers worked tirelessly to plan and organize our annual holiday party for December 17th. Unfortunately, a string of sickness among children and other family members compelled us to make the difficult decision to postpone the party. Our kids had also

worked alongside the Brookville Church's Minister of Music, Carol Goglia, to rehearse a Christmas service and pageant. However, our kids and family members were able to pivot to a zoom format so they were able to perform the service and music interludes from their homes. Here is a snapshot of some of our kids and attendees to our zoom holiday service.



How can I stay informed?

EMAIL

Please check your email for updates. If you would like to be added to our email distribution list, please email ifcoflongisland@gmail.com.

SOCIAL MEDIA

IFCLI website: <https://www.interfaithli.org/home>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ifcli>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/interfaithcommunityli/>

Interfaith religious education classes on **Sunday, January 14 & 28 at 11am.**
All are welcome!

Registration is still open. Please let us know if you are attending by sending a message on our [Facebook page](#) or by using the contact form at our [website](#)

This year your Interfaith Community of Long Island organized its 1st Annual Adopt-a-family event. Sara Decker, an IFCLI member and social worker at a Long Island school district, provided the gift information for children in need. Our families volunteered to purchase and wrap the requested gifts. Then, Sara delivered the gifts to the needy families. We are so proud to be able to help make the holidays special for kids that are less fortunate.

~ *Christine Mankes*, Communications Chair



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 6:30 PM**

Please join us on Friday, January 5, 2024

The Community of the New Synagogue of Long
Island,

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

We rely on your support and commitment!
Please support The New Synagogue of Long Island
as generously as you can. Your contributions are
the lifeblood of The New Synagogue. Please help
us keep alive our inspiring teachings of Spiritual
Judaism.

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

[Donate online](#)

[Zoom Invitation.](#)

[Shabbat Service Booklet](#)

[Synagogue of the Month](#)

Email: newsynagogue.li@gmail.com

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 meeting,
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*”





The Interfaith Institute of Long Island (IFI)
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An Interfaith Response to Loneliness

Loneliness has been declared an epidemic in America, but is seldom mentioned in the scripture of three major Abrahamic faiths, or directly addressed by their leaders or adherents. Three persons from three Abrahamic faith traditions will address loneliness, followed by audience participation. Topics include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ The presence or absence of loneliness in their scripture.
- ◆ The presence or absence of loneliness in their community, culture (religious and secular), and place of work.
- ◆ The stigmatizing and pathologizing of loneliness as weakness, sin, disease, etc. and its possible role in keeping loneliness in the shadows.
- ◆ Methods and tools to raise awareness, empower acceptance, and be agents of the transformation of loneliness into empathy, solidarity, creativity and community-building.
- ◆ Questions, comments, and answers from audience participants.



Rev. Dwight Lee Wolter

pastor of the Congregational Church of Patchogue, author of "The Gospel of Loneliness" (The Pilgrim Press and available on Amazon.com) and Board member of the Interfaith Institute of Long Island.



Seemi Ahmed

Interfaith Chaplain at Northwell Health and Former Board Member of the Interfaith Institute of Long Island and Islamic Center of Long Island.



Cantor David Katz

Cantor at Temple Or Elohim in Jericho, New York, and Board member of the Interfaith Institute of Long Island.

Date & Time

**Sunday, February 4th 2024
2:00pm-4:00pm**

The Location

**Brookville Church and Multifaith Campus
2 Brookville Road
Glen Head, New York**

Registration by: E-mail: faroquekhan@outlook.com

Brookville Tag Sale and Craft Show fundraiser coming in May 2024!

Anyone interested in participating on our planning committee please contact Lisa Denison at LMDenison24@gmail.com or text at 516-695-1123.

Regular meetings will begin in 2024.

More to come..!

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!

Big thank you to all the wonderful people who contributed to the staff bonuses! Your generosity is truly heartwarming!

Rev. Vicky, Carol, Linda, Rigo & Esperanza

The Next Chapter



Nancy and I share a memorable boating experience that started like most trips, whether by car or bike or boat; what is expected is what was experienced in the past. Some time around 1985 we were returning our boat to Long Island from Maryland, north via the Chesapeake Bay and down the Delaware Bay to Cape

May, New Jersey. From Cape May to Long Island we would be in the Atlantic Ocean. The trip was familiar as we had done it going north and south four times. The Bays were usually calm and the Atlantic had never been threatening. We would get gas in Cape May, enough to finish the trip. On this occasion we were ready to go north along the Jersey Shore and get to Atlantic City for the night. Well, I was ready..

Nancy cautioned me that it was later than usual and we could be more comfortable at the Cape May Marina, but I really wanted to reach Atlantic City so we went outside the breakwater, turned left

and sailed north. The weather turned foul the further we went and we had to cut the speed down three or four times in order to avoid pounding through the swells. Nancy had sailed with her father several times, long before I had ever been sailing, so she was competent at the helm. When you're steering the boat you have something to do, to concentrate on when the water is rough. She steered and I marked the course and location.

The sky had darkened early due to the storm that was brewing and Atlantic City seemed to never get closer, even when we could see the lights of the tall casino hotels. The pounding of the ship as it broke into each coming wave makes things move about on board. Nancy shouted in alarm, the anchor on the bow was coming loose from the shackles. If it became unhooked there could be danger so it had to be made secure,



She slowed again and turned directly into the waves so we could anticipate their height and frequency. I went forward hanging on to the guardrail and putting my left foot on the gunwale to stay onboard. UP and CRASHING down over and over. Finally at the bow I was able to secure the anchor line to a cleat and stow some of anchor rope back into the locker. Doing the best I could and doubting it as I scrambled back to the helm I reached Nancy with great relief for both of us.

The ride on the bow had more effect on me than I expected and I wasn't much good for many minutes except to regain some composure. Nancy took the boat past the buoys at the harbor entrance - red on right returning - while I found the location of Harrah's Marina and guided her into a boat slip.

Harrah's Hotel and Casino are still there serving great food and we remember well the comfort of the hotel and the delicious dinner. Nancy spoke with the wine steward that I was still under the weather and he

recommended club soda and bitters. Amazing stuff. I was feeling better before the food arrived. After dinner it was a pleasant stroll back to the docks and the slip where our good ship Moon Tide calmly awaited us.

The meaning of fear is an unpleasant often strong emotion caused by anticipation or awareness of danger.

Fear or AWE? Fear is a foreboding, an anticipation of danger. Awe is a feeling of great respect sometimes mixed with fear or surprise. While on the water we respected the power of wind and waves. When we were done tying up the dock lines we realized that there was fear, but it wasn't in control. I was proud of my wife and still am nearly forty years later. We shared an awesome event.

Branch Worsham

Editors note: Happy anniversary to Branch & Nancy, with wishes for continued smooth sailing!