Brookville Multifaith Campus



One house, many faiths, endless opportunities for growth!

NEWS

June 2022

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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. Together we promote cross cultural understanding, peace building, and a strong commitment to service. Each group maintains its own religious identity but fosters an open environment for learning, celebrating and honoring each distinct religion.



Thoughts from campus leaders

All of Us - A Great Success!

Rev. Vicky Eastland

International documentary filmmaker, Pierre Pirard had a vision to reinvent a world where everyone has a place. He people all over the world looking for inspiring stories of women and men who decided to put being human beyond their own identity and place it at the center of their relationship to each other.

After traveling with his film crew to Bosnia, Lebanon, Indonesia, Senegal and the United States in 2019, he spent the first half of 2020 in post production deciding what to include and what to leave on the cutting room floor. This project was completely funded by private patrons and foundations, including the Royal Family of Belgium.

The plan was to release the film in September of 2020, but the pandemic halted those plans. Pierre had to reimagine how to get his film out into the world, so he came up with the idea to hold a world wide virtual watch party on May 16. 2022, the same day as the United Nations International Day of Living Together in Peace.

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Christine

Mankes

The Road Less Traveled

As interfaith families that choose to raise, educate and worship in a way that respects both Christianity and Judaism, we have taken the road less traveled.

On Sunday, May 22nd, our 8th grade students graduated from our interfaith education program. The Identity and Transition Class, which culminates with graduation, focuses on issues of religious identity and what it means to have an engaged spirituality in either tradition.

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Shavuot

Rabbi Stuart Paris, HaKohen

Shavuot is the "Festival of the Giving of the Torah" at Mount Sinai, which occurs seven weeks after Passover. Shavuot is a two-day holiday which falls on the 6th and 7th of the Hebrew month of Sivan, this year corresponding to June 4th – June 6th. The Torah was given by G-d to the Jewish people on Mount Sinai more than 3,300 years ago. Every year on the holiday of Shavuot we renew our acceptance of G-d's gift, and G-d "re-gives" the Torah.

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A Quran Translation with Biblical References

Dr. Syed Asad and Dr. Sultan Abdulhameed

In America, Muslims are present in large numbers, especially in metropolitan areas. Roughly about 2 to 3% of the population identifies as Muslim. About 40 percent are Afro Americans, most others are immigrants or children of immigrants from South Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Eastern Europe. Before 1965 the number of people admitted annually as immigrants from a country was proportional to their representation in the existing US population, and therefore almost all the immigrants were from Europe. The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 changed that and allowed some people to emigrate to the U.S. based on their professional qualifications.

As a result, many highly skilled people such as doctors, engineers, lawyers and teachers from Muslim regions in Asia and Africa came to seek the American Dream. In later years people from all walks of life migrated, so now you come across Muslims as Uber drivers, health care workers, financial advisors, insurance agents, mobile phone vendors, salespeople in malls, IT workers and government employees in different sectors.

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A Quran Translation with Biblical references. ...continued from page 2

طريق الآلام

VIA DOLDROSA

Muslims are now ubiquitous in North America. It is therefore essential that the rest of the population have an unbiased and fair understanding of Islam and Muslim mindset for a harmonious integration of Muslims in the American mainstream.

Quran is the fundamental source of guidance and inspiration for Muslims. But understanding it is not so easy even for most Muslims because of its ancient Arabic language and metaphor. As a result, there are many translations of the Quran into different languages.

Cover image for "The Qur'an - with References to the Bible: A Contemporary Understanding."

BRIDGES TO COMMON GROUND

The first translation of the Qur'an into English from the original Arabic was published by George Sale, in London in 1734. Wikipedia has listed that there are now 69 English translations. So, why do we need yet another new translation, and why now? "The Qur'an - with References to the Bible: A Contemporary Understanding," is the result of a multi-year collaboration between Dr. Safi Kaskas, a Muslim scholar in Beirut, Lebanon and Dr. David Hungerford, an American physician who developed a deep interest in Islam having lived in many Muslim majority countries. They believe that civilization stands at a crossroad of confrontation and hostility that is spiraling out of control. We must seek an understanding of 'the other.'

For the first time in history, this translation is the work of a devout practicing Christian and a devout practicing Muslim and the only one with parallel references to the Bible. Readers may be surprised to find that the Qur'an, in its original context, challenges some of the more mainstream interpretations believed by both Muslims and Christians, especially the more controversial verses.

The authors have worked together to produce a translation of the Qur'an into contemporary, commonly understood English. Dr. Kaskas began the ten-year process by first translating the Qur'an from the original Arabic into English. They then sat side-by-side and optimized each verse, line-by-line, into accessible, easy-to-understand English, which was no simple task. A great deal of effort was made to ensure that the meaning of the Arabic was translated into that same denotation in contemporary English.

The second phase of the project was to choose verses from the Bible that correspond to the meaning of selected verses of the Qur'an. Many of the biblical stories - from attributes of God, the Creation of the Universe, the beginning of humanity, and historical events recorded in the Bible, to the lives of the prophets and the life of Jesus -are repeated in the Qur'an. The Qur'an also says of itself that it has been given to confirm the previous revelations (the Torah and the Gospels). The authors felt that most Christians and many Muslims are entirely unaware of the rich trove of common themes in these scriptures, which are considered holy to more than half the people on the planet. Although some have a vague awareness of their 'common ground,' few are aware of the extent of the

similarities. The selection of the verses chosen for contextual relevance has also been a combined effort of the two authors.

The authors suggest that where Christians and Muslims are divided and cannot resolve their differences, the Qur'an prescribes an appropriate arena for competition; we are to contend with each other in good deeds:

There is a direction to turn in every community, so compete to do good deeds wherever you may be. God will bring you all. God has power over all things. Q2:148

We have assigned each of you a law and a way of life. If God had wanted, He could have made all of you a single community,

but instead, He is testing you through what He has revealed to you. To compete in doing what is good. You will all return to God, and He will clarify these matters about which You have differed. Q5:48

Hearing about an attempt to compare the Qur'an and the Bible to emphasize commonalities will make some Muslims very suspicious. The same suspicion has been expressed by some fervent Christian groups, who consider it an insult to compare the Bible to the Qur'an. Some even warn of a "Chrislam" movement when they hear Muslims speaking positively about Jesus.

This translation is by no means a tool for converting Christians to Islam or Muslims to Christianity. The authors aim to clarify the foundational tenets of both the Bible and the Qur'an to love God with all our hearts, mind, and soul and our neighbor as ourselves. What is needed is a movement toward peace and personal reconciliation, and we hope that this translation will stimulate steps in this direction.



All of Us - A Great Success!

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He spent the year of 2021 finding 413 partner organizations who would agree to promote and share the link to the film. None of these partner organizations were asked to contribute financially to this project. Pierre's only goal was to have his film seen by as many people across the globe as possible. He wanted the message that peace is possible in our world to be heard across the continents. These organizations represent over 52! The film has been narrated in English, French and Arabic with versions that are subtitled in Dutch, German, Indonesian, Italian, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, and Spanish.

In addition to the virtual watch party 250 places

around the world held in person viewings of Pierre's documentary "All of Us". Thanks to a private donor we were able to hold our live premiere at the Gold Coast Cinema at LIU Post.

Here is what some people said after watching the film:

"Very exciting and interesting to see Brookville represented among such a global community of peace advocates. Very inspiring!" ~ Elena Faverio



Film Premiere at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.



"Being able to look into interfaith realities in so many parts of the world warms my heart greatly." ~ Janice Fitzgerald

"I haven't watched anything this hopeful in a long time. My soul needed to watch this." ~ Katie Kelly

> "We watched the documentary together and we are just so awed. Both of us agree that if Jesus walked this earth today he would LOVE what you are doing. Loving other people, meeting them where they are at. All we can say is WOW."

~ Aaron and Olivia Colby

"It might not always feel like it, but God is good and this gave me hope." ~ Greg Kelly

"All of Us" blew us away!" ~ Frank Cortale

After returning from a long tour of attending premieres of the film across Europe and Africa, here is what Pierre had to say, "This momentum gives me hope in human beings. The movement for a multicultural and harmonious world is underway."

Due to the positive response, the virtual screening has been extended to June 22. If you haven't seen the film, now is your chance! Go to brookvillemultifaithcampus.org







It is customary to eat dairy foods on Shavuot because Jewish tradition compares the words of Torah to the sweetness of milk and honey. Blintzes and cheesecake are among the popular foods to make and enjoy for the holiday.

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

On Shavuot we celebrate getting the game rules of life because if there are no game rules, there is no game. On Shavuot we rejoice because we became players in the game of life. Without the Torah's game rules for living, the world is just one big chaos, and our choices are meaningless. The Torah, however, is more than the rules of life. Torah is a living encounter with G-d. The revelation of G-d at Mt. Sinai wasn't simply an

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> opportunity for the Jewish people to receive G-d's laws, but to experience G-d's love.

The Torah is the gift that keeps on giving, in the truest sense of the

expression. The ideas don't just resonate, they go deeper, they become more profound as we age, as we understand them better. The natural condition of the world is harmony. like a wellordered garden or a loving family or a gracious society. That is how it was in the beginning when G-d made the universe and saw that it was good. We believe in hope, and hope has the power to defeat tragedy - as we have the power to mend what we or others have broken.

This, in essence, is learning Torah. Through our involvement with the text, we hear G-d's voice, feel the Divine presence and experience G-d's love and relive the revelation at Sinai each day of our lives.

The Torah embodies not only a way of life but also a way to love. The wisdom and commandments of the Torah empower us to love each other and love G-d. Shavuot is a day to celebrate the laws in love and the love in law.

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

Wishing you a Happy Shavuot, ~ Rabbi Stuart A. Paris, HaKohen

For information on virtual Shabbat email newsynagogue.li@gmail.com



The Road Less Traveled ... continued from page 2



Introducing the development of Christian and Jewish traditions over the years, students learned about the history and culture of both. In the words of Rev. Vicky Eastland, we have "taken the road less traveled" in raising our children in an interfaith family. Rabbi Parris said, "God doesn't care how we find him, just that we do." Our three graduates, Penelope Kalvert, William Kelleher and Daniel Mankes, realize the differences between the religions, but also the similarities. Each graduate spoke eloquently about their journey through interfaith education and shared their hopes for the future.

"I have two religions that I get to be a part of. It is for this reason that I don't want to choose only one. but rather I see myself as interfaith. Over the past year, I have gained confidence and realized my own value and what I can do to make an impact on other people." ~ Penelope

"If you think about it for a few minutes, isn't the story of Jesus just the continuation of the work of the Hebrews? For starters, Jesus was a Jewish Rabbi teaching the Torah in his way. If I had to choose a religion, I would say I was a Jewish Christian because the Bible is one big continuous story. Someday my kids can be asked the same question about religion, and I want them to be as immersed in it as I am." ~ William

And the closing words of Daniel's speech resonated with me: "We believe in the same God, we learn the same lessons, and although there are differences between the religions, we should follow these lessons to finally achieve peace."

Other children from the IFC religious education program had the opportunity to participate in this meaningful ceremony. Olivia Antoniello served as a greeter, handing out programs. Younger siblings of the graduates, Colton, Jack, and Rosie sang a song called "Light a Candle for Peace" prior to the participation of each family in the candle lighting ritual.

After certificates were awarded, the graduates shared a moment of gratitude for Rev. Bill and Cantor Irene for their unwavering dedication and support for all of the children enrolled in the IFC religious education program. The 2022 graduates are commemorating their years of service with a plaque to be displayed on a bench in the Peace Garden on the grounds of our Multifaith Campus. In the presentation to Rev. Bill and Cantor Irene it was said, "Your names will be etched into the fabric of this campus for the rest of its days. It will serve as a reminder to all of us, and generations to come of the gift you have given us."

God bless our 2022 IFC graduates and all members of our interfaith community! Have a wonderful summer

New members are always welcome!

Registration for membership and classes is still open. Please send us a message on our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/ifcli/ or by emailing the steering committee chair, Allison at allison@interfaithli.org



Celebrating the Life of Helen Thompson

We remember Helen Thompson who died last month at the age of 103! Helen was a loved member of Brookville Church. In the words of her granddaughter, Lindsey Scott, "She was spunky and always full of life! She told great stories of growing up in NYC, spending time with her crazy (in the best way) Greek family, traveling around the world and enjoying life to the fullest! She never took life too seriously and was always able to laugh at herself."

> There will be a memorial service for Helen at Brookville Church in July.



Helen's 101 Birthday, pictured with great granddaughters, McKenna and Hannah



Helen at her 100th birthday party



Rev. Vicky, Helen and son-in-law, Hank Surig

Combined Summer Worship Schedule:

July: Reformed Church of Locust Valley

August: Brookville Church

Big thanks to Branch Worsham for leading us in a Bible study series on Elijah!

We will take a break for the summer and resume our bi-weekly Zoom Bible Study in September - watch for details.



The Muslim Reform Movement Organization's Eid al Fitr celebration on May 2 welcomed people in person and had 14 additional people who joined us virtually by zoom.





Support Brookville Reformed Church by shopping at smile.amazon.com





Congratulations to William Hunt for receiving the Louis Armstrong Jazz Award and being accepted into University at Buffalo! Good luck as you begin your college career.







Michaela, Matthew, Steve, Pam and Ryan Gawley

Congratulations to Matthew Gawley who is graduating from Colby College and will be attending Fordham Law!

He will be joining his big sister, Michaela, already a student in the law school at Fordham.

AND Congratulations to Matthew's mother, Pam who has been accepted into the Masters of Social Work program, also at Fordham.

What a family! Wishing you all the best as you attend Fordham together.



JUNE

OX BATHER

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



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.

This great family event runs about 90 minutes, with one intermission. (child care available)

Tickets are \$25 each and are available at the door or online at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/oy-father-tickets-350704164597

For me the most profound experience in our Multifaith campus is performing our play Oy Father along my husband Rev Bill McBride. Just having a stage where we can share our talents and tell our interfaith story in a creative way is a blessing. The most interesting and interested audience of Jewish, Christian and Muslin human beings are always ready to be inspired by our love story. Without any agenda or intention of conversion of anybody we react and retell our circumstances and love development of our first year of relationship with original songs and words that expressed the troubles and tribulations of our decision making to be together. What is surprising to me and why it is such a great experience as a Jewish Cantor and as a performer is that the message of love from all traditions is taught and embraced in a personal way. Following the performance many times we hear stories about audience members sharing their own love stories or their kids or grandkids interfaith challenges. In the end, having a space that shares love to all humankind and accepts interfaith relationships as blessed ones, is a gift to everyone. ~ ~ Cantor Irene

Table This!

To make it easier to manage tables for events, we would like to purchase 10 light weight, 6-Foot folding tables with tops made high-density polyethylene and weather-resistant folding metal legs.



Tables are \$70 each.

To buy a table you can donate through Givebutter, Venmo, or mail a check to Brookville Church -Just specify your donation is for a new table.



2022 INTERFAITH INSTITUTE OF LONG ISLAND ANNUAL AWARD RECIPIEN -PIERRE PIRARD



Pierre Pirard is the recipient of the 2022 Annual Award for his tireless work in bringing positive stories into the world to promote a more peaceful co- existence through his 90 minute documentary, "All of Us".

"To understand each other, we have to meet each other. Our documentary is a project that is part of this commitment. We want to make voices heard, other than those who badly express themselves in the media. We want to tell different stories, to encourage resolutely positive actions. In the end, we simply want to leave a better world to our children."

~ Pierre Pirard

When asked why Pierre chose the title of his documentary, his response was to emphasize the humanity that resides in All of Us!

Pierre is flying in from Belgium to attend the Award Ceremony on Sunday, September 4 at Brookville Multifaith Campus. Please make plans to attend!



The Interfaith Institute of Long Island (IFI)

Phone: (551) 234-1213 Email: Faroquekhan@outlook.com www.interfaithnv.com

Who are the "Nones" and What Do They Believe? A discussion with Dr. Arthur Dobrin



The Interfaith Institute of Long Island (IFI) in collaboration with Brookville Multifaith Campus is pleased to present a discussion on

"Who are the NONES and what do they believe?"

Nearly one-third of Americans do not claim any religious affiliation and are labeled "Nones."

Event will be HYBRID

Zoom Details: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89516862944?pwd=Q3NsMkFBLzNyKzlraU1rTkxUUXZXQT09

Meeting ID: 895 1686 2944 Passcode: 987670

Location: **Brookville Multifaith Campus**

2 Brookville Road, Glen Head,

NY 11545

To Register Email:

Faroquekhan@outlook.com Dates: Saturday, June 18th 2022

3:00pm Time:



Guest Speaker: Dr. Arthur Dobrin Professor Emeritus of University Studies Hofstra University Leader Emeritus, Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island Board Member Interfaith Institute of Long Island

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE

Join the in person meeting every

Saturday at 9 PM.

For more info call Carol B. at (516) 428-0479.





The Next Chapter



Branch Worsham

When we moved to New Jersey two years ago there really wasn't much consideration of the area and communities in it before we decided to live here. It was conveniently near to visit the half of our family on Long Island and a short half-day trip south to see the other two families. For that part of

our decisions it has been very satisfactory. The other factors we might have looked into didn't

seem relevant enough to turn away from New Jersey, so we arrived along with Covid-19. A year and a half of peace and quiet and cautious staying at home like everyone who was already here was probably an out of the ordinary way to settle in, but it has worked for US.

From the very beginning we noticed and appreciated the new pace of living here. Most of the drivers are considerate and patient. Most of the

stores, businesses and employees are professional, very helpful, and attentive to us as senior citizens who have earned the good will that is spread all about. Sure there are exceptions people who are in a rush, inconsiderate and shallow, but way fewer than what we left behind on Long Island.

The other day we went to and back from a town ten miles away and the roadway is usually slow with traffic lights, cars, city buses and school buses. The traffic backs up, turning left against the oncoming vehicles is disrupting the flow, pedestrians needing time to cross the street are just some of the things that can rankle people, but we haven't experienced any disagreeable behavior. Nancy still marvels at the kindness of the people on the busy roadways. What is interesting

is I now enjoy pausing for someone else to pass and don't sigh about the time lost.

We appreciate the trip from Old Westbury to Toms River - 110 miles and usually taking two and a half hours. One time it was over four hours and I still don't understand what was wrong. More often we have arrived comfortably under two hours. The horrors of traffic congestion on the Belt Parkway in Brooklyn can destroy anyone's day, but when it is clear the trip to New Jersey is a pleasure.



The Garden State Parkway has 45 miles for us to travel and it is, like the New York State Parkways, a pleasant, tree lined and fast route. The startling fact is that it was the cause of a population growth in southern New Jersey. Toms River was a county seat and comfortable old city before the Parkway. The commuter railroads into NYC do not go south as far as Toms River and the roads to the nearest station are too slow to try and

get to a train. So, when the Garden State Pkwy finished construction, it provided fast access to the Jersey Shore and to the inland area around Toms River. In the years from 2000-2010 the area became known as a new bedroom community for New York City and grew rapidly. In those ten years 100,000 people moved in.

I have used the Parkway at 7 and 8 AM and it is full of drivers who take that route every day and they push the speed limit. Being down here, close or on the shore, is similar to LIE passengers going to the Long Island beaches and ocean. We all know what living near the beaches and ocean are like, whether NY or NJ they are a great place to live on the weekends.

Continued on page ...



The Next Chapter ... continued from page

Hospitals and Health care was slim until the recent ten years and the best of the small Community Medical Centers have grown to become hospitals and have joined together as part of large hospital groups. We all know how Northwell has grown and integrated into an area wide provider and there are two similar groups here vying to be best.

Whenever we wonder what the weather is like or will be tomorrow the NYC stations covering Long Island has always included Toms River, the southernmost town in the New Jersey reporting. As a safe rule our weather is 5-8 degrees warmer than the South Shore of LI, and in the winter less snow by a lot -the annual average is three snowfalls of 5", 2" and 1/2".

There have to be drawbacks in any area but the Covid restrictions have been the real nemesis and what they caused for two years is diminishing now. This summer we should be able to get around and learn about where we live.

This Next Chapter is being written heading into Memorial Day Weekend. There are many memories associated with that Holiday. For four years in high school I was a member of the band which marched in the town parade then boarded buses and went to the cemetery for a long service which I only recall as a day too hot. The same holiday the next four years at West Point was a distinctly formal and sombre event with minimal marching, but music by a much better band and no speeches. Army active duty meant nearly every post or base would have something simple but appropriate. Moving on to Long Island our church had a simple service with appropriate songs being sung and prayers prayed.

Eventually we bought a boat and Memorial Day Weekend began the summer season with the family and as the years passed the boats got bigger and longer. Early years we went round and round the Bay water skiing. Everybody learned how. I went to the Northport Presbyterian Church and establish

many summer friends. In the 80's our boats were larger and could travel to delightful and famous destinations along the New England Coast. I remember the towns, the harbors and the churches in Newport, RI, Mystic, Conn, Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard and when we were just lazying in at the Greenport Marina I went to a Methodist Church in East Marion, an 1800's bright white country church.

We have certainly slowed down the pace of our activities. The family is spread out just far enough to not celebrate together. For us the past two years of Virus induced inactivity probably set us up for Senior Citizen calmness and more time to reminisce. Time pursues us all but cannot take away memories.

~Branch Worsham



Happy Pride Month from Brookville Multifaith Campus



Study, Pray and Worship at Brookville Multifaith Campus...

Muslim Reform Movement Organization

muslimreform@hotmail.com

In person and online Prayers, Fridays 1 PM Khutba at 1:10, English Prayer at 1:30

> Online Quran Study Sundays, 2:30 - 4 PM

CLICK FOR ZOOM LINK

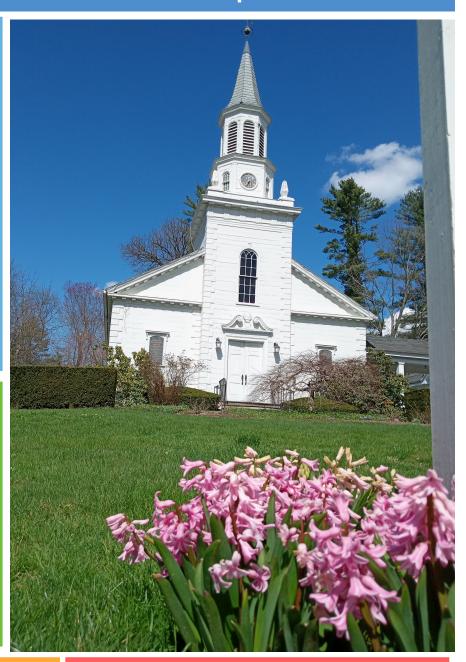
Brookville Church

brookvillechurch@gmail.com

Hybrid Worship Celebrations Sundays, 10 AM

Online Bible Study

CLICK FOR ZOOM LINK



New Synagogue of L. I.

newsynagogue.li@gmail.com

Online Shabbat Services The first Friday of each month, 7:00 PM

CLICK FOR ZOOM LINK

Interfaith Community of LI

allison@interfaithli.org In person classes for children certain Sundays, 11 AM

CLICK FOR INFO