

# Brookville Multifaith Campus



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

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

## NEWS

Sept. 2023

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*

516-626-0414 [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 Scott Matous  
[rabbiyamatous@hushmail.com](mailto:rabbiyamatous@hushmail.com)



Cantor Irene  
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### *Muslim Reform Movement Organization. MRMO.org*

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



Dr. Sultan Abdulhameed  
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Dr. Syed Asad  
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### *The Interfaith Community of Long Island*

[info@interfaithli.org](mailto:info@interfaithli.org) [Interfaithli.org](http://Interfaithli.org)



Rev. William McBride &  
Cantor Irene Failenbogen  
Directors of Education  
[irenetunes@aol.com](mailto:irenetunes@aol.com)



Rev. Enid Kessler  
Spiritual Advisor  
[interfaith4you@gmail.com](mailto:interfaith4you@gmail.com)

#### **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.

## Personal Thoughts on Cultural and Religious Appropriation

I write this article with trepidation knowing I am entering into a topic that is controversial and that my personal opinions will not be shared by everyone reading this. A “buzz” term in our current context is cultural and religious appropriation. According to Wikipedia the definition is: the inappropriate or unacknowledged adoption of an element or elements of one culture or identity by members of another culture or identity. This can be especially controversial when members of a dominant culture appropriate from minority cultures.<sup>1</sup>

I have always had a fascination with culture and religion. When I was in college I truly wanted to be what I termed: A-cultural, meaning I didn’t want to identify with any particular culture. I wanted to absorb as many cultures as I could. At the time the term cultural and religious appropriation wasn’t in our vernacular. I attended a small Christian college in the cornfields of Iowa where life was very homogeneous and did not afford me much opportunity to explore other cultures.

Fast forward from the late 1980’s to the 2000’s when I found myself serving a church in upstate New York. My small midwestern experience began to expand. For the first time in my life I began meeting people of other faiths. It was also where my husband and I adopted a pre-teen from India whose formative years were spent practicing Hinduism. Eventually this led me down a road that paved the way to Long Island and Brookville Church where the world and its many cultures were now at my doorstep. My desire to learn and even embrace other cultures and religions could finally be realized. These past ten years have afforded me the chance to meet and become friends with people from almost every world religion.



So what happens when various religious paths meet? For us in Brookville, it has meant the opportunity to study from each other’s holy scriptures, to learn how Jews and Christians and Muslims worship and connect with God. And what has happened to me along the way? Some may believe that a good Christian pastor wouldn’t turn to rabbis, a cantor and an Imam to become her spiritual teachers, but that is exactly what has happened! I have worshipped at Jewish Shabbat

services and high holy days so much that I now know the Shema and other Jewish prayers by heart and feel God’s presence in them. And since our Muslim community began holding Friday Jumah prayers on our campus, I have been able to pray prostrate between beautiful Muslim women and men on either side of me who allow this white, midwestern girl to pray with them in their custom and feel the presence of God in our midst.

Last Friday after Muslim prayers, I shared with our Imam and others in attendance that at times I fear I am wrongfully appropriating their religion in a way that is disrespectful. As a result, Imam Sultan shared with me that Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, took many of his religious practices, including fasting and praying prostrate to Allah from other faiths. Muhammad saw that Jews fasted twice a year which caused him to incorporate fasting into his religious practice and eventually led to the month of fasting during Ramadan.

If the definition of cultural and religious appropriation is “unacknowledged adoption of an element or elements of one culture or identity by members of another culture or identity”, then I am not doing so unacknowledged, but rather by invitation. I must however acknowledge that I am from the dominant culture and will never understand the plight of those in the U.S. who are from a minority culture and/or religion, nor will I ever experience the persecution

many have suffered for their faith, in this country or in other parts of the world.

I am thankful I have been exposed to the practices of many faiths and that I can experience God in new and profound ways that enrich my relationship with the Lord. I also acknowledge the need for cultural and religious sensitivity. If adopting parts of another’s culture or religious practice is done with only selfish intentions, it should be avoided. Appropriating practices that enrich all, benefit everyone. I feel it makes our shared experience of God even deeper when we not only appreciate the way another worships or prays, but we get to share in those experiences together.

*Rev. Vicky*

<sup>1</sup> Wikipedia The Free Encyclopedia; “Cultural Appropriation”; Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.; 20 August 2023; [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural\\_appropriation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_appropriation)

## Tranquility and Peace by Syed Asad and Sultan Abdulhameed

Let us discuss a verse from the Quran that teaches us the path to achieving calmness and tranquility. This verse is from Surah Ar-Raad (13:28), which says:

Those who have faith, their hearts are assured by the remembrance of Allah. Unquestionably, by the remembrance of Allah, hearts are assured.

This verse reminds us of the power of remembrance of Allah in attaining peace and serenity, especially during times of adversity. In this fast-paced world filled with stress and anxiety, we must learn how to find true tranquility within our hearts.

How you deal with your daily frustrations dramatically impacts your life. If you think of yourself as unfortunate and complain about what is happening to you, the difficulties will multiply, and your life can spin out of control. We must find ways to dissolve the daily irritation, frustration, and pain. We can obtain relief using chemicals. Tobacco, alcohol, sleeping pills, and other mind-altering drugs make us feel better. The relief is temporary, but it works. A big downside is that the substance can be addictive and severely damage your health. We can also find relief from the pains of life through indulgences, such as eating a lot, sleeping a lot, watching lots of mindless television, or finding fault with what others are doing. These activities also do make us feel better. These also negatively affect our health and capabilities, and the relief they give lasts only a short time.

This verse points out that you can find peace by remembering the presence of God. If you sit quietly for a few minutes and recall that God cares about you, protects you, and guides you, the turmoil and the fear will disappear, and you will experience peace. But it requires faith. As Aya says, "Those who have faith, their hearts find tranquility in the remembrance of God."

Acquiring faith is a learning process. A person may have been taught the principles of faith, but they only form our spontaneous response to life if they are internalized. Some people were taught faith in God as children but they ignored it as adults. They did not think about faith anymore. But one day, something terrible happens, and they feel fear and panic. They then quickly turn to prayer, remembering God, frantically repeating the phrases they had learned long ago. Many find that this sudden turn to faith does not give solace. The words of prayer appear to be remote and meaningless.

They have yet to lay the groundwork for faith within themselves. We increase in faith by consciously internalizing the concept of faith through prayer and by interpreting the events in our lives through the idea of faith. It is a remembrance because each of us has already experienced the love of God in many, many ways, although we may have forgotten about them.

Recall that once you were a little fetus without shape, and it is through the nurture of God that you developed a form as a human being. You can remember that once you were a little child without strength or power, and it is by the mercy of God toward you that you have become a functioning adult. You can recall a stage in life when you were confused and without direction; through guidance from God, you have found the path. You can consider that there was a time when you were in want, and it is through the bounty of God that you now have means.

Consider how we remember God in Al-Fateha, the most repeated prayer: We are grateful to God because He is our Lord; He nurtures us, protects us, and cares for us and the whole world. He is Compassionate, Loving, Merciful, and Gracious; he is a Compassionate Judge; he gives hundreds of rewards for every step we take in the right direction. He limits the consequences of our mistakes. We serve only You, and we ask You for help. The purpose of daily prayer is to repeat this remembrance consciously so the belief that God is our merciful Lord becomes entrenched in our hearts. We have strong faith, and life's vicissitudes do not overwhelm us. We can experience peace within ourselves anytime by remembering the presence of God. For this prescription to work, prayer must be a conscious remembrance of the favors of God. Mindless repetition of prayer does not increase faith or create peace.

Conscious remembrance of God as a nurturing presence is a method of personal transformation. As we practice it more and more, faith is internalized in us, and God becomes a reality for us. You feel protected and taken care of. Tranquility and peace replace stress and fear. You believe everything that happens is good, and you find it is.

May Allah bless us all with peace, tranquility, and contentment in this world and the hereafter.

*Syed Asad and Sultan Abdulhameed*







## WELCOME BACK! *By Christine Mankes*



It is with great anticipation and excitement that we welcome you back to another year at the Interfaith Community of Long Island. As we begin our 18th year of programming, your leadership committee has been working all summer preparing for our best year ever! Class schedules, events, holiday get-togethers and service projects have been planned for our members.

We are looking forward to reconnecting with old friends, as well as making new ones! We encourage our members to spread the word about our organization and to welcome new families at our Open House and first day of religious education classes on **Sunday, September 10th at 11:00 am** following the Brookville Worship Service at 10:00am. New families are welcome to have their children try out our religious education classes. All of our classes are taught by two instructors: one of the Christian faith and one of the Jewish faith. The children meet for one hour in classrooms set up in Fellowship Hall. Classes are available to children in grades pre-k through high school. Please visit <https://www.interfaithli.org/religious-education> for more detailed information about our classes for each grade level. While the kids are in classes, the adults not only have the opportunity to socialize, but also address various issues that confront our interfaith families. Each family in our organization contributes to our success. Opportunities to contribute include arranging holiday celebrations, social gatherings for adults, get-togethers for kids and serving on various committees, Not only I am proud to have been a member of the IFCLI for over 13 years, but I am also excited at the prospect of what this new year has in store for all of us!

### The IFCLI Committee Chairpeople

Steering Committee Chair <i>Allison</i>	Finance Chair <i>Jim</i>	Education Chair <i>Nancy</i>
		
Membership Chair <i>Gayle</i>	Co-op Chair <i>Derek</i>	Communication Chair <i>Christine</i>
		

Registration for membership and classes is still open. **We hope to see you all on September 10th.**

Please let us know if you are attending by sending a message on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ifcli/> or by using the contact form at our website <http://www.interfaithli.org/home>

**Please check our website at <https://www.interfaithli.org/home> for a full calendar of exciting events that have been planned for your family this year!**

# JOIN US!

## Interfaith Community of Long Island Open House

**Sunday, September 10, 11 AM  
2 Brookville Rd, Glen Head, NY 11545**

Meet our faith leaders, religious  
education teachers, and other families  
just like you!

**FREE MISTER SOFTEE  
ICE CREAM!**



[Click here to register for the event](#)

How can I stay informed regarding the Interfaith Community?

### **EMAIL**

Please check your email for updates. If you would like to be added to our email distribution list, please email [allison@interfaithli.org](mailto:allison@interfaithli.org)

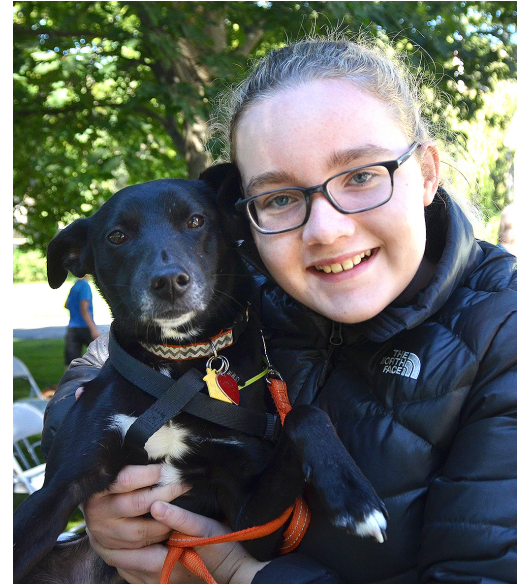
### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ifcli>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/interfaithcommunityli/>

Please check our website <https://www.interfaithli.org/home> for a full calendar

# Blessing of the Pets



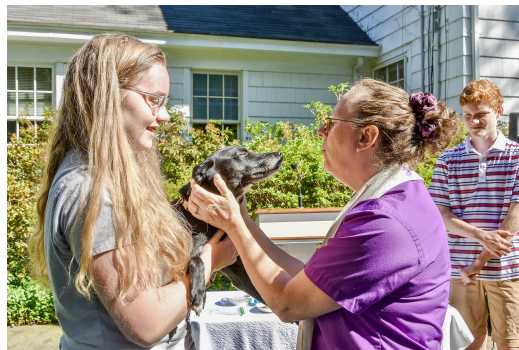
## Sunday September 24 10 AM



All well-behaved, vaccinated pets, and their people, are invited to join us on the front lawn, weather permitting.



All pets should be on a leash or in a carrier.



You may also bring something to represent your pet (photos...).

Donations will be accepted on behalf of a local animal shelter.

**Brookville Church, 2 Brookville Rd. Glen Head, NY 11545**

[www.brookvillemultifaithcampus.org](http://www.brookvillemultifaithcampus.org)

## The High Holiday Anthem

Nations, states, provinces and even some corporations have anthems. An anthem is a piece of music that expresses the essence of the entity it celebrates, a song that is important to a particular group of people. For example, there are a lot of different types of gatherings at which the “Star-Spangled Banner” is played in the United States. Some are happy and some sad. Some are deeply serious, and some are frivolous. Some are large and some quite small. The common theme the anthem gives voice to is that we are proud to be Americans and are grateful for the opportunities this country has given us; we know that our happiness and security has been bought with sacrifice and blood, and we know that only absolute steadfastness in protecting our liberties will retain them. We are aware of these truths both when swearing in a new president and when enjoying ourselves at a baseball game, as they are equally crucial to both.

The High Holiday season also has an “anthem.” During the month of Elul, we engage in introspection and self-evaluation. On Rosh Hashanah, we explore our personal and communal connection to Gd and renew our belief that we can make a difference in our world. During the Ten Days of Repentance which climax on Yom Kippur, we confront the negativity in our past hoping to transform the bitterness of the past into the sweetness of a better future. We then enter the festivals of Sukkot and Simchat Torah, where every aspect of our lives is embraced with the presence of Gd’s love for us and our reciprocal love of Gd.

### *High Holiday Services*

#### Rosh HaShanah

Friday Evening, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm  
Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 10am to 12:00pm

#### Yom Kippur Eve - Kol Nidre

Sunday Evening, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm

#### Yom Kippur Day

Service – Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at  
10:00am to 12:00pm  
Yizkor Service at 12:00pm  
Concluding Service at 5:00pm

These experiences are very varied yet are part of a single continuum. They have an anthem that expresses that continuity. The “anthem” of the High Holiday season, which spans the Jewish months of Elul and Tishrei, is Psalm 27, “Gd is my light.”

The purpose of light is to reveal. Light enables us to see clearly that which it shines upon. Light gives voice to our sense that during this time of year Gd is uniquely accessible, and we therefore can open the doors of our consciousness to Gd and allow His light to reveal all that we possess. Light reveals our flaws. Light reveals our potential to transcend those flaws. Light reveals that our dream of perfection is a vision we are empowered to attain. Light reveals that we are not as far from Gdliness as we thought we were. Light reveals that we are not a separate entity from Gd, but an extension of Gd’s essence. Light reveals our ability to see this divine quality in everyone else as well.

Use this time to make positive changes in your life. Transforming oneself can be most difficult and challenging. We change because we want to grow; other times we do not really want to change but we recognize that we must; and sometimes G-d just takes over and change “happens.” If we embrace change, we have the ability to rejuvenate ourselves and create the life that G-d has “written” for us. A spiritual makeover keeps us moving forward. Stagnation leads to depression of the soul.

Take a few moments and make a decision that will transform your life. Embrace your ability to change. Choose a kindness a day, one less hurtful response, one more smile when you feel depleted and want to scream, one more mitzvah (good deed) that stretches your heart and soul. Think big and create a passionate vision of who you want to be this coming year. If we are serious about making this world better, the place to begin is within ourselves.

Let us open ourselves up to the Gdly light within us and transform ourselves and our world for good.

On Rosh HaShanah we say,  
**“Shanah Tovah” - Happy New Year**

On Yom Kippur we say,  
**“G’mar Chatimah Tovah” - May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year.**

Love and Blessings,  
*Rabbi Scott Matous*



Dear Congregants and Friends of The New Synagogue of Long Island,

I hope you are doing well and enjoying the last days of summer. As we approach the High Holidays season, my heart is longing for and missing Rabbi's Stuart beautiful presence. For the last ten years, The New Synagogue pulpit has been leading you and your families through the most holy and powerful days of Jewish Tradition. The ten Days of Awe between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are the most meaningful and spiritual days and certainly mark the intentions and commitments that we present and offer for a life -giving year.

When we met over the summer to prepare with Rabbi Scott, Rev. Enid, Seth Cirker and Steve Schombs, I had a touching revelation about this coming First High Holidays season without our beloved Rabbi Stuart. This group encouraged me to follow up and share the idea with you. I felt that we could focus our prayer and ritual this year on the need to remember not only our wonderful Rabbi Stuart but all the people that we love who have left us from this physical world. As you are aware, I lost my sister Elsa and Mom recently and I am still grieving their passing. My suggestion is that we can light electric tea candles in honor of each person's memory, and we can donate \$18 for each person that we want to remember this Yom Kippur. As you may know, 18 symbolizes the number for the word Chai in Hebrew which means life. These names will be called and remembered in a special way during the Yizkor (meaning "to remember") service.

With this generous gesture, we support our synagogue, slow down and remember the beauty and brightness of each soul that passed and is in our spirit through ritual. As an example, in my case, since I want to remember in a special way my Dad, Mom, Elsa and Rabbi Stuart, I will

donate \$72 to the synagogue. Even if you cannot attend services the candles will be lit, and names will be called. Please complete the attached form so that the names of all the people in your heart will be mentioned at the Yizkor service on Yom Kippur. We all know that nothing will be the same without the warmth, generosity, and kindness of Rabbi Stuart, but I pray his spirit will guide us to be present, open, and inspired to be our best selves. Thank you for your generosity and support.

L'Shanna Tova to you and your family.  
May G-d inscribe us in the Book of Life

With much love and gratitude,  
Cantor Irene Failenbogen

Please complete the attached form.







# The New Synagogue of Long Island The Synagogue for Spiritual Judaism

Brookville Church ~ 2 Brookville Road ~ Brookville, NY 11545

*May God remember for ever my dear ones...and may my life always bring honor to their memory.  
— Yizkor service, Gates of Repentance*

*Yizkor*, in Hebrew, means "Remember." It is not only the first word of the prayer, it also represents its overall theme. In this prayer, we implore G-d to remember the souls of our relatives and friends that have passed on.

When we recite *Yizkor*, we renew and strengthen the connection between us and our loved one, bringing merit to the departed souls, elevating them in their celestial homes.

The main component of *Yizkor* is our private pledge to give charity in honor of the deceased. By giving charity, we are performing a positive physical deed in this world, something that the departed can no longer do.

[Donate on-line](#)

**Print the form and mail it with your donation.**

**The New Synagogue of Long Island  
10 Cuttermill Road, Suite 302 ~ Great Neck, NY 11021**

**Email: [NewSynagogue.LI@gmail.com](mailto:NewSynagogue.LI@gmail.com)  
[www.newsynagogue-li.org](http://www.newsynagogue-li.org)**

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### The New Synagogue of Long Island

\_\_\_ \$18    \_\_\_ \$36    \_\_\_ \$54    \_\_\_ \$72    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# BRAG BOX



Shout out to Jasia Mirza for her amazing masala chai tea and homemade carrot cake we shared along with fellowship, following Jumma Prayer (Muslim prayer) on Friday, August 11th on our multifaith campus, led by Imam Sultan Abdulhameed.

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

Brookville Multifaith Campus  
will host a  
**MEAL FOR PEACE**  
Sunday, October 15  
12 PM

RSVP at 

Featured Speaker  
 JJ TenClay,  
RCA Refugee Ministries Coordinator

<https://forms.gle/R1gVEFexkdTSEMxcA>

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

## 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 <mailto: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*"  
email for details: [muslimreform@hotmail.com](mailto:muslimreform@hotmail.com)



# The Interfaith Institute of Long Island Presents 2023 Annual Award

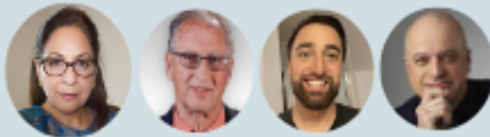
Film Screening & Panel Discussion

**Richard A. McKinney**  
Featured Film Protagonist



Moderator and Panelist:

Daisy Khan, John Kiser, Zaki Bahrami,  
Dr. Conrad Fischer



Awardee  
Oscar Nominated  
Filmmaker



**Joshua Seftel**  
Director and Producer  
*Stranger at the Gate*



Co-Sponsor: Hofstra  
Muslim Student Association



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

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

**St. Paul's Reformed Church** in North Babylon, an outreach ministry that houses the North Babylon Food Pantry, Emma's Table (a feeding ministry), 3 Narcotics Anonymous support groups, as well as Boy and Girl Scout troops, is in need of a new boiler. They need to have heat in order to maintain their vital outreach activities in the community. Only \$2,305 has been raised for a need of \$10,000.



Let's help them reach their goal while the weather is still warm!  
To learn more, go to their [Go Fund Me page](#) and make a donation today.



We are so blessed on our multifaith campus to offer special life-cycle ceremonies to interfaith families. Imam Sultan Abdulhameed and Rev. Vicky Eastland co-officiated a Muslim blessing and Christian baptism For Lucas Brown on August 13th. What a joy it was to welcome Lucas into the family of God. He is doubly blessed to be raised in a family of two faiths.



We have journeyed with the Brown family from the beginning - first co-officiating their interfaith wedding, then welcoming each of their daughters with the same ceremony their son just experienced. Joy beyond compare!



Brookville Church welcomed Daphne Alberta Travares-Ribeiro into the family of God through the sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, August 20, 2023. In addition to the promise to raise Daphne with a knowledge of God's love, her parents Bruno and Ana, also wrote their own personal vows to their daughter which we would like to share with you as a testimony of two parents' love and devotion to their child.

*"Dear friends and family, we gather here today to declare our unwavering dedication as Daphne's parents, guardians and spiritual guides. We firmly believe that this sacred calling emanates from four divine pillars: Love, Diversity, Learning and Faith.*

*In the loving embrace of these four sacred tenets, we pledge to stand by Daphne's side, offering guidance and support as she blossoms into the person she is meant to be.*

*Let us embrace this journey with humility, understanding that we, too, shall learn and grow alongside our beloved child. Together, we embark on this sacred voyage, united in our devotion."*

Daphne's godparents, James Horvath and Isabel Pavao-Horvath also made promises to be an example of faith, to pray for her, and to be there for her in times of need.

Ana, Bruno and godmom Isabel's country of origin is Portugal. Bruno's parents traveled from Portugal to be at their granddaughter's baptism, along with many other family and friends joining via Zoom, including Daphne's other grandmother! Some portions of the baptism were translated into Portuguese, which allowed all of us to witness the richness of diversity.



Bruno, Daphne, Ana, Isabel and James





September is a favored month of mine. Growing up in Minnesota it was when the fall season was delivered. The northerly position made the weather cooler sooner, partly due to the Canadian cold that swooshed down into Minnesota as a forerunner of fall approaching. As I got older each year would open new experience of the northland.

One of the phenomenon of the early cold was when a September rain would fall and fill the puddles and during the next couple of cooler days the puddles would freeze with about 1/8 inch of ice. A harbinger of real weather changes ahead. The hunting blood in many families would delight in the new seasons of migrating ducks and deer and bear storing up as much food and fat as possible. It was a short time, that ending of summer and arrival of winter, but a pleasant time. The fall also had the changing leaves to a few colors, however nowhere as exuberant as in New England, but just as delightful to the residents.

When I left home to get an education at West Point the new cadets (and I) had to arrive before the 4th of July in order to get in the various marching, training and familiarization required. What I remember of the first July and August was hot and humid. I wondered how the early settlers could stand that unpleasant weather. It was more unpleasant than the hottest August days in Minnesota - where it could hover around 100 degrees.

Come September at the Academy it was as if the thermometers and weather agreed to make life more bearable. It also meant that we were done with military training in the outdoors and classes would begin. September was a pleasant month of new things, exciting things, happening with a purpose. Athletic team sports resumed and weekends were filled with competitions of Soccer, Football, Rugby, Cross Country and more.

On my fourth fall there, the Senior year, there was and still is, the Ring Weekend. West Point was the first US college to have class rings in 1835; there is a presentation ceremony to continue the pageantry with a dinner and dance celebration. September is a memorable time for me as it was the first date I had with Nancy. It was the prelude to 60 years of marriage and still counting. On that day I got the gold ring that I wear every day and the lady who became my bride, worth more than all the gold I will ever have.

Nancy is a phenomenal reader of books often finishing two in a week. When we inherited the books in her father's library there was a discovery that put us both on the same path as her parents. On the first blank page of a book just read, they would write their initials, usually in



pencil, the second finisher signing under the first. Only very, very rarely did they write a one word review such as, "Good" which was a high superlative. They liked mysteries and my goodness are there ever excellent authors now.

We have enjoyed trips to England for holiday and business - where we found delightful writers who wrote about their island and we could take it home with us. Anyone who knows about England knows there are many differences in their language, such as: a bonnet is for a car hood and a boot is the trunk. Anti-clockwise always seems to be a backward way to speak about a backward direction; but all of this makes the reading all the more interesting.

About two weeks ago I was reading a book by Felix Francis whose father, Dick Francis was a renowned jump rider in horse races and was the Queen's rider. Both men have written fascinating books about horses and horse racing, mostly the jumps. This new book (2023) is about a former jump rider who lost half of his left arm and now had a replacement from a dead person and that arm felt to him as a part of his original anatomy. After a few pages I began to feel the story was a bit far fetched - the arm was functioning by receiving signals from the nerve ends in the stump just below the shoulder.

However, only a week later I was reading about a Ukrainian soldier who was in America getting a prosthetic arm from the shoulder down to the fingers and it works on commands from the ends of nerves. Here is a bit of the internet announcement:

"Illia is currently undergoing treatment in the United States, where he has been fitted with an ionic prosthetic arm worth US\$200,000."

So I'm going to finish the book as it now has to be believed. The story and explanations are complicated and I know the author did a lot of research, but I am getting pretty good at complicated. It might be finished in another week, but I am never going to compete with Nancy.

So, enjoy September as I hope to.

~ *Branch Worsham*. BEAT NAVY!