

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.

October
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

Brookville Church

BrookvilleChurch.org brookvillechurch@gmail.com



Rev. Vicky L. Eastland, Pastor
vickyleastland@gmail.com



Carol Goglia, Minister of Music
cgoglia@aol.com

The New Synagogue of Long Island

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newsynagogue.li@gmail.com



Rabbi Irene Failenbogen
irenetunes@aol.com

The Interfaith Community of Long Island

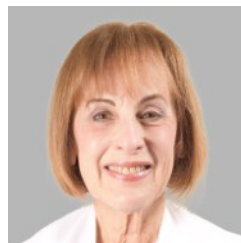
ifcoflongisland@gmail.com Interfaithli.org



Rev. William McBride &
Rabbi Irene Failenbogen
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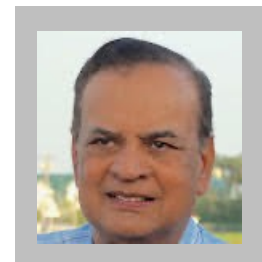


Rev. Enid Kessler
Spiritual Advisor
interfaith4you@gmail.com



Muslim Reform Movement

Organization. MRMO.org
muslimreform@hotmail.com



Dr. Syed Asad, Co-Founder
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.

Angels Among Us

Have you ever met someone who seems too good to be true; has more integrity than the average person, would go out of their way to help others, has a strong faith that sets an example for all others and does things of their own initiative, often without even letting others know what they did?

Such a person has been living and working among us for over 19 years and his name is Rigoberto Melara, most know him as Rigo. Rigo is our Sexton. This word's origin is Middle English: Anglo-Norman French. It means a person who looks after a church and churchyard. Rigo lives on-site in an apartment above the church offices. He raised his youngest daughter in that apartment and has lived there with his wife, Esperanza, the entire time he has been the Sexton for Brookville Church.

Rigo and his wife are from El Salvador and Rigo had to flee his home country as a political refugee. He was told by a militia group that if he were to ever return to El Salvador he would be killed. He left his wife and oldest child behind with his parents in hopes that when things calmed down politically, he could return home. But that day never came, so eventually he sent for his wife and daughter to come to the U.S. to live. Their second child was then born in the United States and eventually Rigo, his wife and oldest child became citizens of the U.S.A.

Trials in our lives can make us bitter or better and Rigo's trauma has made Rigo not only a survivor, but someone who has risen above the difficulties to make a wonderful life for he and his family.



Rigo came to our church during the previous pastor's tenure and at the time, the apartment was in such disrepair that it was not livable. Rigo spent his own time and money repairing plaster walls that had cracked and were falling off the lath boards that were no longer holding them up. He fixed the floors that were not safe to walk across, often spending many nights sleeping on those floors to make the apartment livable for his family before they could move in. He painted and did other needed repairs, all on his own dime. For years, Rigo worked hard at the church with little to no recognition. The

arrangement was that for a reduced rate, he and his family could live in the apartment while he volunteered his time maintaining the inside of the buildings.

As Rigo took care of the inside of the buildings, he watched as the grounds outside began to look more and more shabby and since his degree from El Salvador was in Agricultural Engineering, he could not stand by and watch the grounds continue to go uncared for. So, Rigo began little by little taking care of the yard and plantings around the church property. Eventually, he took over the

grounds maintenance as well as the inside of the sanctuary and other buildings on our property, still without any monetary compensation. Today, people drive by during all seasons and admire the beauty of our property.

On top of all he does for our church he is a lay leader in his church, volunteering for the Diocese of Rockville Center for the Spanish speaking congregations. He leads a praise team, preaches occasionally, trains religious education teachers, leads pre-canna retreats, as well as spiritually counseling couples and families!

continued...

Angels Among Us, continued

We have Angels in our midst! Rigo, along with his wife, Esperanza, are our angels. Esperanza can be found cleaning the offices and restrooms and helping Rigo move furniture and set up classrooms and tables and chairs for events.

Rigo's paid employment was managing an entire grounds staff at a local estate, until two years ago, when he had a near fatal accident while on the job, which resulted in numerous surgeries and permanent injuries. Now that El Salvador is a safe country for Rigo and Esperanza to return, they are preparing on retiring there. They are taking the next two months to pack and prepare for their move.

On **Sunday, October 12th at 11:00 AM** we will be holding a pot-luck brunch to honor both Rigo and his wife for their 19 years of dedication. Since everyone on our multifaith campus benefits from their meticulous service, we would like the **entire campus** to contribute food and plan to attend. Mark your calendars and [use this link](#) or scan the QR code to sign up to bring a dish to share. Let's show Rigo and Esperanza our love and gratitude for all they have done to keep our campus beautiful!



~Rev. Vicky

On September 28th, Lorrie Latzen and Dolores Tibbets were Ordained and Installed as Elders during Brookville Church's Worship Celebration. We are grateful for their spiritual leadership.



Support Brookville Church through

Venmo

@Brookville-Church (7478)



Givebutter

<https://givebutter.com/Sh1iYB>





September 24, 2025 — our Interfaith Community (IFC) opened its doors—and our arms—for a new year, welcoming both familiar faces and new members into our vibrant, supportive community of Jewish and Christian families.

As a longtime member, I felt the joy of reunion the moment I stepped onto our Multifaith Campus in Brookville. Returning families greeted each other with hugs and laughter, while prospective families were welcomed with warmth and kindness. Over a delicious breakfast generously provided by our IFC families, we shared stories from the summer and made new connections.

Children headed off to age-based classes co-taught by a Jewish and a Christian educator—a hallmark of our program that beautifully models mutual respect. While the children learned and played, prospective families had a chance to hear from our clergy and IFC members. Faith leaders

spoke from the heart about the power of raising children in an environment that honors both traditions, and current members shared moving reflections on what this community has meant to their families.

We ended the Open House program with a gathering around the Peace Pole on the front lawn for a sing-along—a tradition that never fails to move me. As voices young and old joined together in song, I was reminded once again why this community is so special. It was a perfect start to the 2025-2026 program for the Interfaith Community of Long Island.

For anyone considering joining, I can say with love and confidence: there's a place for you here.

~Christine Mankes

How can I stay informed?

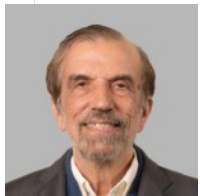
EMAIL

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



Faith-leaders' Forum

Question of the Month: "What part does music play for worship, prayer or study?"



Music in Islam, *by Dr. Sultan Abdulhameed*

Muslims do not play instrumental music during worship. But the Quran's text is rhythmic in many places and its melodic recitation is a common practice. There are several classical styles of Quran recitation, and many Imams recite like that during prayer.

Nasheed are hymns that are either sung *a capella* or with instruments and are popular in all parts of the Muslim world. The lyrics of a nasheed are about living with faith.

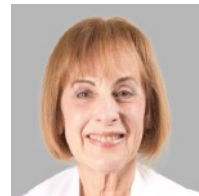
Sufi Muslims are especially known for devotional music inspired by classical poets like Rumi, Hafiz, Bulley Shah and Amir Khusro.

Qawwali is a form of devotional singing, especially popular in South Asia. Sema is devotional music made famous by whirling dervishes; it is popular in Turkey and its neighboring countries. It is set to music called Ayin, a vocal and instrumental piece featuring Turkish classical instruments. such as the *ney* (a reed flute).

Devotional singing called *gnawa* is popular in west Africa.

Devotional songs are often performed as *ghazal* and *kafi*, a solo genre accompanied by percussion and harmonium.

Muslim devotional songs by the singer Cat Stevens are very popular among Muslims here in North America. However, mosques do not feature musical performance in their prayer service or otherwise.



Music in Judaism, *by Rev. Enid Kessler*

Music for both prayer and worship are important to me and to my soul. The music raises my vibratory rate and connects me to God as well as my own spirit.

When Rabbi/Cantor Irene sings, I become aligned with her words and the music that she creates. I am raised up and the music stays with me for several days after, playing over and over in my head, which I experience with a lot of joy. It's as if the connection that I've made by worshipping with the congregation and raising my prayers to God remain with me, for much longer than the actual service. I was not as aware of this in my personal experience when I was young.

When I study or write, I like it to be quiet; to concentrate and grasp what I am reading or studying. I find music at those times to interfere with my concentration and focus.

In my life there is a time for both; the quiet times of meditation and the times for joyous prayer and worship.

Faith-leaders' Forum

Question of the Month: "What part does music play for worship, prayer or study?"



Why did God create music?

by Carol Goglia

I was asked a similar question some months ago, but I didn't want to give a short, quick answer. Being a musician, this question is right in my wheelhouse!

In many religious and spiritual traditions, music is seen as a gift from God, created to enhance worship, express emotions, and connect believers to the divine. It's a means of glorifying God, expressing joy, and finding solace during difficult times.

Here is part 1 of a more detailed look at why God might have created music:

1. Glorifying God:

Music is often used in religious contexts as a way to praise and worship God. The Bible contains numerous examples of music being used in temple worship, in personal devotion, and as a form of communal celebration. Singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs is a way to express gratitude, adoration, and devotion to God.

When I think about what songs strike me about glorifying God, I immediately think of the 'Hallelujah Chorus' from Handel's Messiah. The music huge in sound, tempo and written in a major key; moving the listener to connect with God in a glorious manner. The words are "King of Kings and Lord of Lords....And He shall reign forever and ever." It's powerful and beautiful.

Here is the link to the '[Hallelujah Chorus](#)' from "Messiah" by George Frideric Handel, performed by the Royal Choral Society.

Another piece that glorifies God, is 'The Creation' by Haydn. Creation declares the glory of God through its inherent beauty, complexity, and order, revealing God's power, wisdom, and creative genius to all observers. The unchanging patterns of nature, like the cycles of the sun and stars, and the intricate details of living things, such as diverse bird species, serve as a constant, wordless testament to a divine creator. Here is a link to "[The Heavens are Telling](#)" from "The Creation" by Franz Joseph Haydn, performed by the Academy of Ancient Music.

Now to be fair, I would also like to share our contemporary composers in this article. Derek Hickman composed "O Praise The Name". Repeatedly throughout scripture we are commanded and encouraged to praise the name of God. But, what does it mean to praise God's name? Praise is extolling God and thanking God for what God has done, is doing, and continues to do.

Here is a link to "[O Praise the Name](#)" by Derek Hickman.

Another contemporary song is called "Goodness of God", by Bethel. It is a song of profound praise and trust in God's enduring faithfulness, goodness, and mercy, even through life's challenges. The lyrics express deep gratitude for God's constant presence, from morning to night, portraying God as a trustworthy Father and friend. Here is a link to "[Goodness Of God](#)" by Bethel Music.

Shanah Tovah !

The New Synagogue of Long Island welcomed the New Year with Rosh HaShanna services led by newly-ordained Rabbi, Irene Failenbogen and contributions by several members of the congregation. To hear a bit of the music, visit the Facebook page: [BrookvilleMultifaithCampus/](https://www.facebook.com/BrookvilleMultifaithCampus/)



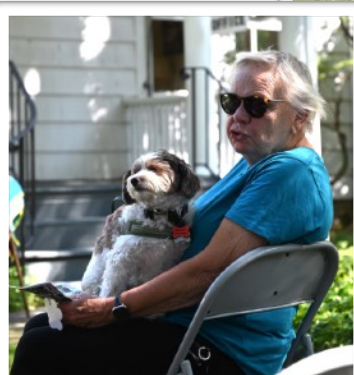
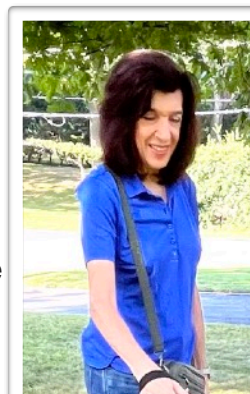
Blessing of the Pets

We had a perfect morning to celebrate our pets, and recognize the wonderful work that Cove Animal Rescue does everyday.

Reverend Vicky presented a beautiful service outside on the front lawn of our campus. She invited anyone in the congregation to speak about their pets: how they got their pet and what they meant to their owner. People gave touching stories filled with love for their animals.

Afterwards, Reverend Vicky blessed each animal with beautiful prayers and words of love.

Thank you to everyone who brought donations for Cove Animal Rescue. It is so appreciated and vital for the continuation of this important work. It's never too late to donate. [Cove Rescue](http://CoveRescue.org) is located at 40 Shore Road, Glen Cove, NY 11542. Call 516-676-5913



ב'ה

HIGH HOLIDAYS 5786

The New Synagogue of Long Island The Synagogue for Spiritual Judaism

Warmly invites you to join
Rabbi / Cantor Irene Failenbogen
in celebrating the New Year Season

High Holy Day Services



Yom Kippur Eve - Kol Nidre
Wednesday, October 1st at 7:00pm

Yom Kippur Day
Service – Thursday, October 2nd at 10:00am to 12:00pm
Yizkor Service at 12:00pm
Concluding Service at 5:00pm



Synagogue of the Month Shabbat Services
Virtual Shabbat Service at 7:00pm

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

Please respond as soon as possible.

Please support The New Synagogue of Long Island as generously as you can. Your contributions are the life blood of The New Synagogue. Please help us keep alive our inspiring teachings of Spiritual Judaism.

Kindly send your responses to:
The New Synagogue of Long Island ~ 10 Cuttermill Road, Suite 302 ~ Great Neck, NY 11021
NewSynagogue.LI@gmail.com ~ www.newsynagogue-li.org

I / We are happy to join you in celebrating the High Holidays this year.
Enclosed is a free will donation made out to **The New Synagogue of Long Island:**

___ \$50 ___ \$75 ___ \$100 ___ \$180 Other Amount: \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Online BIBLE STUDY

Brookville Multifaith Campus, and beyond...

To receive the Zoom link, email
brookvillechurch@gmail.com

Discussing the book of Ephesians

**Mondays
6-7 PM**

Beginning
Sept. 15

led by Linda Hees



Death Cafe'

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'?

Join us at
11:30 AM
Sundays
Oct. 19
Nov. 16
Dec. 21

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

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Muslim Reform Movement Organization



**Virtual Quran Study
every other Sunday, 2:30 - 4:30 PM**

All are welcome!

For Zoom link, please email
muslimreform@hotmail.com

Upcoming event: Multifaith Thanksgiving Celebration and Food Drive

Our annual Multifaith Thanksgiving Celebration and Food Drive will be held on our campus at 2:00 pm, on Sunday, November 23.

We will have a dessert reception afterwards in our Fellowship Hall.

As a community outreach event, we will be collecting food for a local food pantry. A list of acceptable foods will be made available at a later date.



Interfaith Institute of Long Island

 Celebrating 10 Year Anniversary

Join us for ten years of the Interfaith Institute's bridge-building across faith communities.

2025 INTERFAITH AWARD CEREMONY

 **Sunday**
19 October, 2025  **Time**
5:30 - 9:00 PM

 **Cotillion Restaurant**
440 Jericho Tpke, Jericho, NY

 **Free admission**
Donations are welcome

 **Scan barcode to register online**
RSVP by email provided below
Registration Deadline: Sept. 29, 2025


Award Honoree
REV. CHLOE BREYER

Photo by: Harold S. Levine

 More information
<https://interfaithny.com/>  Our Contact
+1 551-234-1213  Email
faroquekhan@outlook.com

BRAG BOX

Congratulations to William Kelleher who organized and led members of BSA Troop 482 in raising funds for his Eagle Scout project. They hosted a breakfast at Applebee's restaurant and sold various items.

His project is the re-beautification of the Garden and Fountain of Remembrance, at Centennial Gardens in Floral Park, on October 11.

Anyone who wishes to purchase a cozie, should contact John or Nancy Kelleher.



William Kelleher, Life Scout
Senior Patrol Leader of Troop 482



Congratulations to Rev. Bill McBride, who was the featured speaker at "Rose Valley Cakes Happy Breaks, " an event that takes place on the last Monday of the month at Rose Valley Cakes coffee shop on 255-01B Union Turnpike in Glen Oaks, NY, from 5:30 - 6:00 pm.

Rev. Bill uses material from his book HAPPINESS IN THE LONG RUN, to present recipes for happiness. In a recent presentation on Sept. 29th, he presented U.N. Sweet Treats in honor of the United Nations vision of peace and the "sweet" New Year wish of the Jewish New Year.

He told stories from the chapters entitled "Understanding Thru Uncertainty " and "Noting Thru Nos". He integrated the ingredients of Understanding and Noting into a simple recipe for happiness--Step one-- Seek first to understand. Step two- Note well the sweet things worth noting.



The Next Chapter



I surprise myself each time I think of being almost 90 because I don't feel any different about my current life than I did twenty or thirty years ago.

When Nancy and I had reached our fifties there were significant changes of attitude from the time we were just married and raising our children. The family was beginning to spread out - away - as their own destinies started. My own work starting a couple of companies was just what I wanted.

Traveling as a couple instead of a family and sensing that our business success was actually in hand, were new aspects of life together. What was interesting around our sixties was so many different opportunities occurred and had to be accepted or declined so that we could enjoy the days coming. We were not looking ahead too far because we still felt young enough to handle the highs and lows as they came.

The year 2000 was an interesting time. What do you remember about 2000 -- or Y2K as it was called? Many people thought that year was going to start with a catastrophe because changing the time and dates on all of the worldwide connected computers were going to collapse. Of course it didn't happen at all, but it certainly was talked about. We spent that New Years Eve watching the international celebrations tracking them around the world. Since it started in the South Pacific we had opportunities to see many nations share their celebrations and we finished watching as TV took us across the United States.

January 1st, 2000 was a Saturday and we celebrated it properly before embarking on a Holiday Season cruise. Nancy and I were going to celebrate our 40th Wedding Anniversary on a cruise starting on Sunday January 2nd out of Miami. That was the Anniversary day and the cruise ship gave us a very special festive occasion. After that we zipped through 2000, or so it seemed because in 2001, on January 2nd again, an accident changed our plans and in fact that day still

has repercussions. I was injured at work and wore a cast for 6 months. In the same early January, Nancy fell and broke her hip and needed to recover also. Things ahead were no longer so sure.

In 2010 we were in our seventies and realized there is an end coming so I should retire. Friends were already retired so I decided that I would retire at 85. West Point has a quarterly magazine that has a page listing the graduates by year of graduation and date of death and it was showing me that many of my classmates were dying more often than before. This made me wonder about living while so many were dying. My plan to quit work at 85 was stalled in 2021 because of Covid-19. We managed to move into our retirement home in New Jersey, but I had to manage the Long Island business a part of every day.

There are frequent occasions nearly every day when some senior person dies in their seventies and older. That news always make me wonder about all of the ages of people who leave us. I still think of myself as about the same as before - but there isn't any way to avoid that last date which doesn't seem real yet. I still exercise most days in the gym and walk a mile or so; doing that is so similar to every day of the past. I continued to work in a comfortable mode of satisfaction, another day accomplished. I easily imagine continuing the gym the rest of this year and then on and on. People here in their retirement homes keep busy with clubs, hobbies and day trips.

Nancy and I expect to last longer - she wants to live to 100 to match her grandmother who was 99+. We are aware of the reality ahead, but it doesn't interfere with today or tomorrow. I have not forgotten about the religious aspect of dying as a Christian couple. That will be written sometime in the future. Today we are thankful for the life we have been able to continue. We praise God for that.

~Branch Worsham. BEAT NAVY!