

Brookville

Multifaith Campus

NEWS



Room for All

An Open and Affirming
Campus to the
LGBTQIA+ community.

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

March 2023

2 Brookville Road, Glen Head, NY 11545
www.brookvillemultifaithcampus.org

Facebook: [Brookville-Church-Multifaith-Campus](https://www.facebook.com/Brookville-Church-Multifaith-Campus)
Email: Brookvillemfc@gmail.com

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info@interfaithli.org Interfaithli.org



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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.

40 Days of Lent *by Rev. Vicky L. Eastland*

The number forty is very significant in the Bible.

- It rained 40 days and 40 nights when Noah was on the ark
- The Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years on their way to the promised land.
- Jesus fasted for 40 days in the wilderness preparing for his ministry by facing the temptations that could lead him to abandon his mission and calling.

The season of Lent spans 40 days (excluding Sundays) leading up to Jesus' death and culminating on Easter Sunday when Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

Since Sundays celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, they are not included in the count of the 40 days of Lent. This is why Brookville Church calls our worship service a worship celebration - because each Sunday is a "mini" resurrection Sunday.

Christians use the season of Lent as a time for introspection, self examination, and repentance. So often when we think of Lent, we think of what we should deprive ourselves of...what we should "give up" for 40 days.

I would like to suggest instead that Lent be a time where you do something different for 40 days. It is an opportunity to start a new behavior or do something good. Do something different from your every day routine instead of depriving yourself.

Here are some ideas of things you can do during the season of Lent:

- Start a gratitude journal
- Start a prayer journal
- Read the Bible daily
- Go to our Worship Celebrations every Sunday in Lent (there are only 5 left!)
- Start walking. Spend 20 minutes in silence with God each morning (and get some exercise while you're at it)
- Spend time in daily prayer
- Declutter - get rid of all the stuff that you don't really need. Having a cleaner, sparser space will not only help your mental health, but it will help you kick the habit of holding onto material things.
- Donate 40 things
- Compliment someone every day
- Every day do something together as a family. If you live alone, then commit to calling a family member or friend every day
- Choose your own idea of what to do during Lent

Carol's Corner

The Brookville and Locust Valley churches are collaborating to perform a beautiful cantata "Come Walk With Me". We will be performing this cantata with combined choirs, musicians and ministers at the Locust Valley Reformed Church on **Good Friday, April 7 at 7:00 pm**

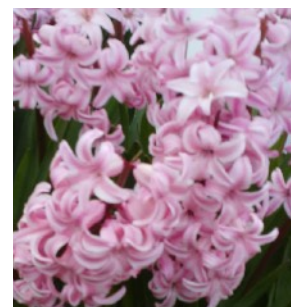
Anyone interested in participating may contact Carol Goglia at goglia@aol.com by March 15th to get the rehearsal schedule.

Order Easter Flowers

in memory or in honor of someone to grace our sanctuary for Easter and your home after.

Please email the church office at **by April 1** brookvillechurch@gmail.com with:

1. Your name
2. How many lilies, tulips, hyacinths and daffodils
3. In honor or in memory of...
4. Method of payment - Check, Givebutter or Venmo @Brookville-Church



**Plants are
\$15 each**

Purim

Purim is a festive Jewish holiday that celebrates the deliverance of the Jews from their enemies in the biblical Book of Esther. Purim is celebrated on the fourteenth day of the Hebrew month of Adar, which usually falls sometime in February or March. (This year corresponding to March 7). According to Jewish tradition, Adar is the happiest, most joyous month of the Hebrew calendar. In fact, its motto is "When Adar comes, joy is increased." The abundance of joy in Adar is primarily due to the Jewish holiday of Purim.

Purim is so-called because the villain of the story, Haman, cast the "pur" (the "lot" as in "lottery") against the Jews yet failed to destroy them. The most important Purim custom is reading the Purim Story from the Scroll of Esther, also called the Megillah. Jews usually attend synagogue for this special reading. Whenever Haman's (the villain's) name is mentioned, people boo, howl, hoot and shake noisemakers (groggers) to express their dislike of him.

Purim celebrates G-d's intimate involvement in every aspect of this world. Even though there were no miracles recorded in the Megillah and G-d's name is not even mentioned once - G-d was actively "pulling the strings".

So, believing in Miracles is one thing, but have you ever experienced any?

Think back to this morning, to the moment when you first opened your eyes. Have you experienced any since then? Before you answer, consider this: You opened your eyes! Is that anything less than a miracle? How about your mobility, hearing, cognition? Are these things that "just happen," or are they cause for a swell of gratitude? How about the loved ones in your life? Are they anything less than a miracle?



The real question then is this: How do you view your life?

Every life takes twists and turns. Today, some things will go right, and some things won't. Which takes up more space in your eyes? The good or the not-so-good? How do you see your day/life as a whole? Once you see your life as a gift, the aggravating bumps take on a different, more manageable, context. They become lessons, exercises in self-betterment and tests of character.

This is the powerful lesson of Purim.

We have holidays like Passover, which celebrates the "over the top" miracles we experienced in the course of our Exodus from Egypt. We each have our own special days, our individual "splitting of the sea," and hopefully turn to G-d and thank G-d for our good fortune.

Purim is different. Purim doesn't have any blockbuster miracle to celebrate. In the Purim story, things turned out positively, and we chose – we had the consciousness and vision – to see it as a miracle. In the scope of your life, the "Passover miracles" will probably be few and far between. Most of your life is like today, a "regular" day with nothing "special" to celebrate - unless you have vision and choose to appreciate and celebrate.

Then, every day is Purim – A time to celebrate!

"Today whatever may annoy, the word for me is joy, just simple joy."

~ Rabbi Joseph H. Gelberman (Spiritual Truths)

With best wishes for a joyous Purim and may we live to see a world free of Hamans.

Love and Blessings,

Rabbi Scott Matous



SYNAGOGUE OF THE MONTH HYBRID SHABBAT SERVICE 5783

The New Synagogue of Long Island
The Synagogue for Spiritual Judaism

Rabbi Scott Matous
Cantor Irene Failenbogen

Synagogue of the Month Hybrid Shabbat Service at 7:00 PM

Please join us on Friday, March 3, 2023.

We will be celebrating Purim!

Remember to wear your costume!

Please join us in-person or virtually:

The New Synagogue of Long Island
2 Brookville Road, Brookville, NY 11545

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.

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

We thank you in advance for your help and generosity.

[Donate online](#)

[Zoom Invitation](#)

[Shabbat Service Booklet](#)

[Synagogue of the Month](#)

Text-to-Donate Text "NSLI" to (202) 858-1233

The New Synagogue of Long Island

Email: newsynagogue.li@gmail.com

www.newsynagogue-li.org

Our mailing address is:

The New Synagogue of Long Island

10 Cuttermill Rd Ste 302

Great Neck, NY 11021-3201

Passover Seder

Please plan to join the New Synagogue of Long Island to celebrate the holiday. Watch for info on the date and time.

This event will be hybrid.

For more info, email newsynagogue.li@gmail.com

Friends gathered after the Shabbat Service in Memory of Rabbi Stuart Paris



Thank you to Frank Cortale for re-starting Coffee Hour after our Worship Celebration on Feb. 5th



IFCLI: Remembrance *By Christine Mankes*



We support each other, not only as interfaith couples and families, but also as friends to help others through challenges in life. Our Interfaith Community of Long Island has been engaged in honoring and remembering the life of Rabbi Stuart Paris.

IFCLI religious education classes joined together - over 20 students ranging in ages from 2 to 18 years old! Our students connected with meaningful words that highlighted the life of Rabbi Paris and the impact he had on our interfaith community. These words were then lovingly and creatively painted onto rocks, which we placed around our campus Peace Pole!



For the next part of the remembrance activity, our entire group - children, parents, teachers and faith leaders, walked outside in joyful song to the Peace Pole garden on our beautiful Brookville Multifaith Campus.



After listening to Rev. Enid Kessler's words of gratitude, our entire group sang and danced and knew that Rabbi Paris was watching over us smiling with joy.



"There are some who bring a light so great to the world that even after they have gone, the light remains."



Mark your calendars!

Interfaith religious education classes on

Sunday, 3/19 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 at <https://www.facebook.com/ifcli/> or by using the contact form at our website <http://www.interfaithli.org/home>

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.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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

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

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

Prophet Muhammad's Mosque in Medina

by Sultan Abdulhameed
and Syed Asad

Prophet Muhammad's Mosque (Masjid an Nabawi) was built by the prophet Muhammad in the city of Medina, three hundred miles north of Mecca. It is the second holiest site in Islam, after the Mosque in Mecca. The mosque is located at the heart of Medina and is a major pilgrimage site.

The mosque was built soon after the prophet arrived in Medina after fleeing from Mecca in the year CE 622. The Prophet himself took part in the construction of the mosque with his companions. It took seven months to complete the construction. It measured 100 ft × 117 ft. The roof was 12 ft high, made of beaten clay and palm leaves and supported by palm trunks. The mosque faced toward the north because at that time Muslims faced towards Jerusalem when praying. Seven years later the mosque was expanded to 155 feet on each side. The prophet's mosque served also as a community center, a court of law and a religious school. It contained a pulpit for Prophet Muhammad to give the Friday sermon (*khutbah*).

As time passed and the number of Muslims increased worldwide, Muslim rulers expanded and decorated the mosque multiple times. It now incorporates the tombs of the prophet Muhammad and two of his companions, the first two caliphs, Abu Bakr and Umar ibn al-Khattab. A fourth grave site is reserved for Jesus (Isa in Arabic), the Messiah, as Muslims believe that he will return to the earth to restore faith and will be buried at the site. The tombs are covered by the Green Dome, visible from a distance. It was constructed in 1817 CE during the reign of the Ottoman sultan Mahmud.



A recent picture of the Prophet's mosque in Medina.
The prophet's tomb is under the green dome.

Most pilgrims who perform the Hajj also go to Medina to visit and pray in the Prophet's Mosque, encouraged by his saying: "Whoever visits me after my death is like the one who visited me during my life."

After the foundation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1932, the mosque underwent several major expansions to accommodate the rapidly increasing number of pilgrims made possible by modern methods of travel. In 1992, the mosque took 1.7 million square feet of space. Escalators and 27 courtyards were added to the mosque. A \$6 billion project to increase the area of the mosque was launched in 2012. It now accommodates up to 2 million worshippers.

The modern-day Masjid an-Nabawi is situated on a rectangular plot and is two stories tall. It has a flat roof topped with 27 sliding domes on square bases. Holes in the base of each dome illuminate the interior. The sliding roof is closed during the noon prayer to protect the worshippers from the sun. When the domes slide out on metal tracks to shade areas of the roof, they create light wells for the prayer hall. The courtyard of the mosque is also shaded with umbrellas affixed to freestanding columns.

Elsa's and Fanny's Unveiling Present

by Rev. Bill McBride

I am writing from Buenos Aires, Argentina thinking about the Brookville Multifaith Campus's generosity. It's the day after the second of two unveiling ceremonies at the graveside of Cantor Irene's sister, Elsa, and mother, Fanny. Appreciation for your care and concern represented by your overwhelming financial contribution has been a deeply gratifying aspect of our trip.

It has been a privilege to be here to pray together with Irene's family and friends who have gathered to pay tribute to two remarkable women. For those unfamiliar with the tradition of unveiling, it is a graveside ceremony often taking place a year after a person's death. It is an important way to remember people and keep their spirits alive. Through prayers, reflections and tears we are able to continue the grieving process and move forward together as each of us finds meaning in aspects of the rituals that touch our hearts.

Particular reflections on the giving nature of both Elsa and Fanny, add to the previously noted generosity with which we were sent. Allow me to briefly describe the unveiling ceremonies in a way that shows you the beauty of the ceremony even as it displays painful moments of reflection.

The prayer leader of both ceremonies was named Abraham - an appropriate name for someone who led our faith community and reflected on our ancestry like stars in the heavens above us on a sunny summer day in the outskirts of Buenos Aires.

His message centered around two words como vivio--how she

lived-- The unveiling itself echoed this vital message as a cloth cover was lifted from the stone of the graveside to reveal a vivid photo of both Elsa and Fanny.--They are the same photos we shared with the Brookville Campus on the Playbill for our play, "Oy Father." A painful but beautiful spirit overwhelmed us as we tried to fit these beautiful past images of Elsa and Fanny into the present context of our lives.



As you might have imagined, the heart of each service was the voice of Cantor Irene. Singing the 23rd psalm in Hebrew gave the unveiling a sound that moved us to tears. Then, she offered her own heartfelt reflections with a litany of images evoking tears, sighs, smiles, nods and an assortment of other movements that brought the presence of our lost beloved family members closer. It seemed to be an unveiling of our vulnerable selves standing together and withstanding painful truths of loss.

We are privileged to have had this time to reflect, and now we anticipate sharing with you more of our experiences in Argentina. Your spirit of giving continues to empower us as we pack our

belongings and prepare for the flight back home. We hope that we can be present to you like Elsa and Fanny were present to loved ones in their lives. The unveiling present we have received is a call to live life more fully each and every day. May their memory be a blessing and a present that keeps on giving life to all who listen to their stories.



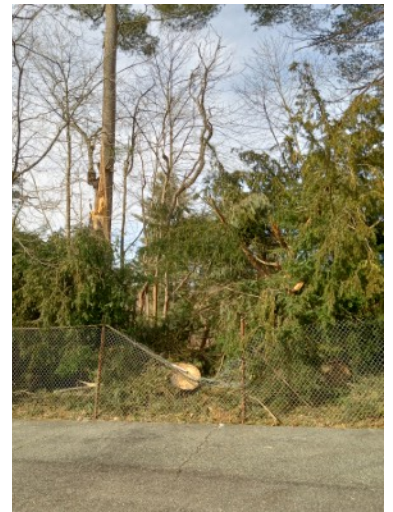
Irene, Perla, Regina, Bill, Michael & Nathan

BRAG BOX



Congratulations to Evan Schombs who has chosen SUNY Oswego School of Communication, Media and the Arts. He will be a cinema and screen studies major.

Thanks to Mario and Juan who cleaned up the huge section of tree that fell in the parking lot and damaged the fence.



The Next Chapter



Worsham is our family name. I have never been embarrassed by it or done anything to shame it - that would have been a terrible thing to do to our forebears. I knew my grandfather, Allen Worsham, and visited him on his farm in Minnesota when I was young, but I knew nothing of what his past was like.

When my parents named me Branch Alvin Jr. in 1936 it wasn't so special to be a Junior as there are lots of 'Juniors' in families. My brother, Allen Arthur, was named after our two grandfathers and that's how this month's piece got started. I wanted to know; what was the middle name of Grandpa Worsham and where did Branch Alvin come from - if after anyone in the family?

I went to the internet and looked up some genealogy sources and this search got my son, BJ, so interested he spent two hours on a Sunday afternoon tracing our name back to its beginning. We were both fascinated because he was able to find Worshams named back fifteen generations to England and then five more in England. He printed what he had discovered and said we should have it certified by a real genealogy company.

Beginning to do that, I found that my brother's wife, Kitty Worsham had already done that and the records she had matched those BJ made tracking back to the first Worsham in our family tree who came to America from England. John William Worsham 1610-1660 was called the Immigrant having sailed to Virginia in about 1630.

BJ actually traced back further to William Worsham in 1572 and there the search required a new level of expertise. There are a string of names

called Isham. In genealogy searches it is understood this kind of name change was often done. Isham became Worsham.

For the majority of human existence, people were identified only by a single name. Hereditary surnames (a surname passed down from a father to his children) were not in common use in the British Isles prior to about the 14th century. (1300) Name changes were often caused by fault of pronouncing or spelling errors, or to avoid legal trouble or to avoid connections to even earlier family miscreants.



*the only commercial building in
Worsham, Virginia*

In the Isham to Worsham change one of them might have come from France; about 1400 Lord Henry de Isham and his descendants could have managed a change to avoid a link with France.

To have a serious search we will have to contact a genealogy firm of which there are many and some specialize in early England.

So my grandfather's middle name is Robert and he lived in the Midwest - Iowa, the Dakotas and Minnesota. My father was born in

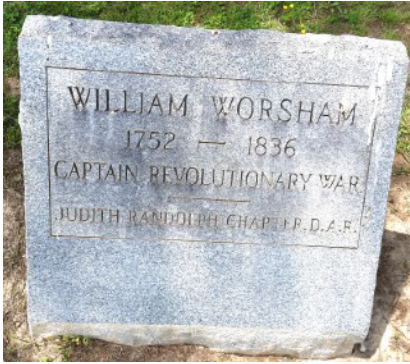
North Dakota. When his mother died he was age seven. He and his father moved to Minnesota and became farmers and his two younger sisters went to live with other family members in Oregon and stayed there the rest of their lives.

Captain John Worsham married Elizabeth Branch in 1748. THAT was when the name Branch first appeared with Worsham.

Their son, Captain William Worsham married Peggy Jones in 1780, Their first son was named Branch Jones Worsham.

Continued on pg. 12

The Next Chapter



One of his sons was the Clerk of Court and another son, Sgt. Major Henry Worsham fathered Branch Edward Worsham who fathered my grandfather Allen Robert Worsham.

So, Elizabeth

Branch's name flowed through the family history for nine generations -- which is my grandson, Branch Worsham IV, whom some of you know as J.J. I didn't find any connection to Alvin, but perhaps it came from the women's side of the family.

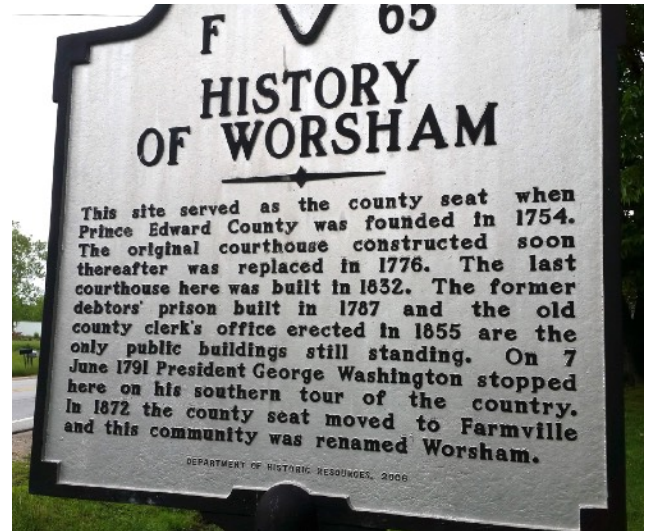
We are not done yet, because there must be more that can be learned. It has given us an interesting pastime that can be picked up or let rest as we wish. Virginia has amazing family records and there is a lot that is free. When we started this we had five generations and four of us were living. We had no idea how far back we went or how easy it was to do. We are proud that the name has existed for at least 450 years. We have not attempted any connection with DNA searches. It is fun enough as written about here. I hope some of this interested you.



Rev. Vicky Eastland went to England three years ago and took a picture of a highway sign for WORSHAM. I have been to Burford several

times and never thought about any English background.

I was led to believe we were Scandinavian and when we visited Sweden there was an entertainer named Branch Worsham, so that would have been a false trail.



This historical marker by the Daughters of the American Revolution

The Immigrant, John William Worsham, and several others came to Virginia in the sixteen hundreds and populated an area giving it their name. There isn't much there now except the small Worsham Cemetery.

However there is special news for me there. One of the Prince Edward County, Virginia was formed in 1754 and an early 1800's Clerk of Court was Branch Jones Worsham. His picture hangs in the building that was the court house.

~ Branch Worsham



Branch Jones Worsham