

Brookville Multifaith Campus NEWS



An Open and Affirming
Campus to the
LBGTQIA+ community.

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

November
2022

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www.brookvillemultifaithcampus.org

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Email: Brookvillemfc@gmail.com

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brookvillechurch@gmail.com



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Pastor
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Minister of Music
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The New Synagogue of Long Island

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newsynagogue.li@gmail.com



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HaKohen
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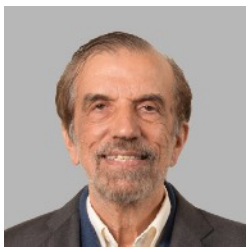
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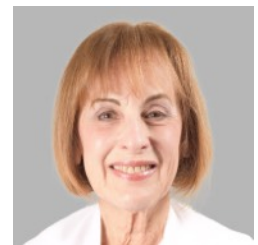
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The Interfaith Community of Long Island

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Cantor Irene Failenbogen
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Rev. Enid Kessler
Spiritual Advisor
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.

Thoughts from campus leaders



An Attitude of Gratitude

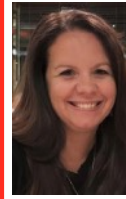
Guest Columnist Linda Hees

My friend Lois posted a sign at her church asking for people to list the things that they are thankful for. She encouraged anyone who passed through the building to contribute their thoughts. This simple act prompted me to think about the idea of gratitude. It is one thing to be grateful for something and another thing entirely to actually express it.

To name our blessings out loud (or on paper) is a great way to keep ourselves aware of just how abundantly blessed we are.

I know how easy it is to take for granted the positive things in life, especially when the negative ones are so demanding of our attention. A pain in my toe may distract me from the miracle of how amazingly well the rest of my body works, most of the time.

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Thankful. Grateful. Blessed.

Christine Mankes

My husband and I joined the Interfaith Community of Long Island (IFCLI) 14 years ago. It's incredible that it was that many years ago that we were blessed to find this organization. I was raised a Catholic and Pete was raised in the Jewish faith and we knew that we would have to figure out a way that we could be together, but also stay true to our beliefs, traditions and upbringing. Then, our path crossed with the IFCLI.

We are thankful that we have had the opportunity to raise our three children in a supportive interfaith tradition from the time they were born.

Continued on page 6

Thanksgiving: A Jewish Perspective

Rabbi Stuart Paris, HaKohen

We, the American citizenry, are a thankful lot. Our calendar is dotted with days when we express our gratitude to various individuals and entities. On Veterans Day we thank the members of the Armed Forces for their dedicated service. On Memorial Day, we show our gratitude to those courageous men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice while defending our liberties and democratic lifestyle. On Labor Day, we express our appreciation to the industrious American workforce, the people who keep the wheels of our economy turning. On other selected days, we pause to thank different historic individuals who have made valuable contributions to our nation.

As Jews, we have our holiday routines: Shabbat dinners with candles, Kiddush wine and Ha-Motzi over the challah. On Rosh Hashanah, we have apples and honey. Passover? There is a whole manual to tell us when to dip, when to drink, even how we are supposed to sit.

Continued on page 4

Mentions of Mary in the Quran

Dr. Syed Asad and Dr. Sultan Abdulhameed

Mary, the mother of Jesus, holds an exalted status in the Muslim faith. Of the Quran's 114 surahs (chapters), Mary is among the eight people who have a chapter named after them, the nineteenth chapter "Maryam", which is Mary in Arabic. The third chapter in the Quran is named after her father, Imrân. In addition, Mary is the only woman specifically named in the Quran.

It says in Surah 3:

42. And remember when the angels said, "O Mary! Surely Allah has selected you, purified you, and chosen you over all women of the world.

43. O Mary! Be devout to your Lord, prostrate yourself in prayer and bow along with those who bow down.

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An Attitude of Gratitude ...continued from page 2

A pastor who I know has taught me to thank God for "a reasonable portion of health" because no matter how much ill-health we have, we each still enjoy some good health and that needs to be celebrated. And that is just health; there are so many more things to be thankful for - life, friends, family, work, skills, opportunities and sometimes even the weather! When we count our blessing our whole attitude can change.

And to direct thanks to the one who has provided something, offers a benefit to everyone, even those who only witness the act of gratitude. When I observed a woman thank the young man clearing tables in a restaurant, it benefitted both of them and it spilled over to me as a reminder of all the things that others do for me that often go unnoticed.

There are many times that we can't thank people directly for the things that they have done for us. (It would be very hard to trace back all the hands that touched the food that ends up on our tables each day). And sometimes a person may deflect the gratitude, saying that they are just doing their job. In those cases, it is possible to thank God for these people and the circumstances that came together to result in something beneficial. I am grateful to all of the drivers who paid attention and didn't have an accident that might have delayed



my trip to work! I may not be able to thank them directly, but I thank God for them and all the things that conspired to get me where I wanted to go safely.

I believe that God delights in a thankful heart, not because it benefits God, but because gratitude helps each of us to become better people. Being

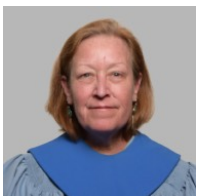
thankful can help us overcome:

- self-centeredness (it's not about me - there are others in the world and they are God's children also).
- gloominess (my toe might hurt, but my hands are great!).
- pride of independence (we all need others in many ways).
- isolation - gratitude for what we have received can motivate to either give back or to "pay it forward" to others in some way, thereby strengthening our connections.

Being grateful brings people together. It is a universal quality that crosses every barrier that we create among ourselves.

I am thankful for this campus and the good that it does in the community and in the world and I am grateful to God for having led me here to bear witness to it!

Peace,
Linda Hees



Carol's Corner

On December 18th, there will be a special children and youth led Christmas service including a

pageant that will be performed by our talented Multifaith kids. To be part of this experience, email Carol Goglia at cgoglia@aol.com no later than November 13. All are welcome!



Thanksgiving: A Jewish Perspective ...continued from page 2

And then there is Thanksgiving. The day when we thank G-d for enabling all the above - and for all else G-d does for us. While we typically don't think of Thanksgiving as a particularly Jewish holiday, it has the potential to be the most Jewish of all the secular holidays. With its focus on gathering as a community, giving thanks, and being mindful, Thanksgiving is infused with central Jewish values. We return to these themes again and again throughout Jewish practice, whether in prayer services, through the study of Torah, or as the basis for mitzvot. Thanksgiving invites us to stop and embody these values.

Whether we are invited to a meal or eat out with others, or whether we are at home, Thanksgiving encourages us to form connections and experience the simple joy of breaking bread together. We welcome one another to the table - just like on Passover, when we welcome guests to the Seder. This is an essential Jewish tenet. Just as Abraham sat outside of his tent waiting for passersby, we offer hospitality with full hearts. Whether we are hosts or guests, we make each other feel at home.

Thanksgiving, is of course, about giving thanks. We can all find something to feel thankful for - even in challenging times. This holiday encourages us to tilt our point of view, even if for only one day, toward the gifts around us. On ordinary days, we tend to rush through our meals, clear the table, and move on to the next activity. But Thanksgiving is a kind of secular Shabbat. As a national holiday, many of us have the day off. We slow down and are more mindful. And just like on Shabbat - when we don't ask for things - Thanksgiving invites us to become aware of the gifts we already have. The feelings we cultivate by doing so can extend beyond the holiday itself, in

the same way that the fulfillment of Shabbat can give us a sense of peace and wholeness lasting well into the week.

Thanksgiving offers us a chance to replenish ourselves with a sense of gratitude, well-being, and connection. This is at the heart of Jewish life and practice. Before COVID, did we appreciate the things we had? Have we learned to be more grateful for what we have? Like a fridge full of food, our friends and family, the roof over our heads, and having an extra 6-pack of Charmin? We focus now on simple acts like going for a walk and reading a book. Take a moment to focus on the goodness in the world and in your life. A grateful perspective is critical to sustain our positive attitude - to energize, to heal, and to bring hope. Now, more than ever, this Thanksgiving let

us recognize the good (hakarot hatov) and say, "Thank You." (Todah Rabah)!

Recite the words of the Shehechyanu prayer this Thanksgiving as you sit around the table with your loved ones. Express your gratitude to the G-d of Life who enables us to reach this beautiful day:



*Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu, Melech ha'olam,
shehechyanu v'kiyemanu v'higyanu laz'man
hazeh.*

Blessed be G-d, the Eternal Source of all life, for keeping us alive, for sustaining us, and for bringing us to this joyous season!

Happy Thanksgiving to All!,
~ *Rabbi Stuart A. Paris, HaKohen*

Please join us for virtual Shabbat
Nov. 11 at 7 p.m.
For Zoom link, email
newsynagogue.li@gmail.com

Mentions of Mary in the Quran ...continued from page 2

Mary's Family Background

Earlier, it says in Surah 3:

33. Indeed, Allah chose Adam, Noah, the family of Abraham, and the family of Imrân above all people of their time.

34. They are descendants of one another. And Allah is All-Hearing, All-Knowing.

Mary was born to Imrân and his wife Hannah, who descended from a family of Prophets. Hannah was childless and she had made a vow that if God granted her a child, she would consecrate him to His service in the holy Temple. God answered her invocation, and she conceived a child. When she gave birth, she was saddened, for her child was female, and only males were given in service to the holy temple, known as Bait-al Maqdis in Arabic.

35. Remember when the wife of Imrân said, "My Lord! I dedicate what is in my womb entirely to Your service, so accept it from me. You alone are truly the All-Hearing, All-Knowing.

36. When she delivered, she said, "My Lord! I have given birth to a girl,"—and Allah fully knew what she had delivered—"and the male is not like the female. I have named her Mary, and I seek Your protection for her and her offspring from Satan, the accursed".

Hannah took her to Bait-ul- Maqdis and offered her to those in the temple to grow under their tutelage. Knowing the nobility of her family, they quarreled as to who would have the honor to rear her. They agreed to cast lots, and it was none other than the prophet Zachary who was chosen. It was under his care and tutelage that she was raised.

37. So her Lord accepted her graciously and blessed her with a pleasant upbringing—entrusting her to the care of Zachariah. Whenever Zachariah

visited her in the sanctuary, he found her supplied with provisions. He exclaimed, "O Mary! Where did this come from?" She replied, "It is from Allah". Surely Allah provides for whoever He wills without limit.

The Annunciation

It is said further in Surah 3:

45. Remember when the angel proclaimed, "O Mary! Allah gives you good news of the Word from Him, his name will be the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary; honored in this world and the hereafter, and he will be one of those nearest to Allah.

46. Mary wondered, "My Lord! How can I have a child when no man has ever touched me?" The angel replied, "So will it be. Allah creates what He wills. When He decrees a matter, He simply tells it, 'Be!' And it is!

47. And Allah will teach him the Book and wisdom, the Torah and the Gospel.

Despite the exalted status of Mary and Jesus, the Quran teaches that they were human, they were created beings and born into this world. The Quran teaches that none has any supernatural powers other than God, and that He alone deserves worship. Even though

miracles occurred at the hands of the prophets and righteous people, this was through the favors of God Almighty. All human beings are slaves of God and need His help and mercy.

Mary was a maidservant of God, specially chosen to bear the miraculous birth of Jesus, one of the greatest of all prophets. She was known for her piety, and she will continue to be held in great esteem through the ages to come.

~Dr. Syed Asad and Dr. Sultan Abdulhameed



Thankful. Grateful. Blessed. ...continued from page 2



We are thankful that our kids have been provided an interfaith religious education - each of them participated in classes taught by both a Jewish instructor and a Christian instructor!

We are grateful that we have met families that are just like us, couples that are interfaith, who have chosen to raise their children in an interfaith home. Each couple has their own story, but we are united in the sense that we chose to be together and chose to have our children share in both of our faiths traditions.

We are blessed that our families have embraced our decision to raise our children in an interfaith tradition. You don't just marry a person, you marry into a family. We are blessed to have parents and siblings that embraced our decision and have supported our efforts by attending interfaith events at our Multifaith Campus hosted by the Brookville Church.

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 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 of exciting events that have been planned for your family this year!

Mark your calendars!

**Multifaith Thanksgiving
Service and Celebration**

Sunday, 11/13 at 3pm
All are welcome!
(See page 9 for more info)

**Interfaith Religious
Education Classes**

Sunday, 11/20 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>

Halloween comes to Camp Warwick

On Saturday, October 15, 2022 families in the community came out to enjoy trick or treating the cabins at Camp Warwick where Rev. James Eastland is the Executive Director.

Did you know that Brookville Church has had a long standing relationship with Camp Warwick providing scholarships for many underprivileged children from Long Island? Brookville Church even paid for one of the cabins to be built.



BLESSING OF THE PETS

Many from the community came to receive a special blessing for their pets on Oct. 9th

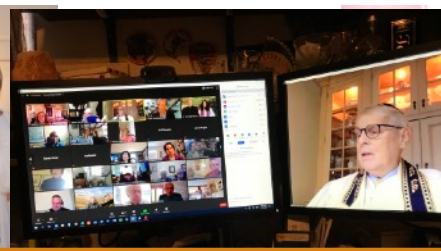


Pups with their "Peeps" - Seth Cirker and Barbara Reiter

Help for Ukraine through the Red Cross

From their website: "As conflict in Ukraine continues to rage, the Red Cross is committed to providing lifesaving aid to those in need — both in the country and in neighboring areas. Of the more than 12 million people who have been displaced by this conflict, an estimated 8 million are still inside the country and in need of urgent life-saving assistance. The Red Cross has reached 1 in 10 people impacted by this crisis and is committed to assisting the most vulnerable." [Read more...](#)

DONATE at www.redcross.org



Multifaith Thanksgiving Celebration

Join us in person or by Zoom

Sunday, November 13, 3 PM

Come celebrate with prayers, songs and scriptures from our different faith traditions.



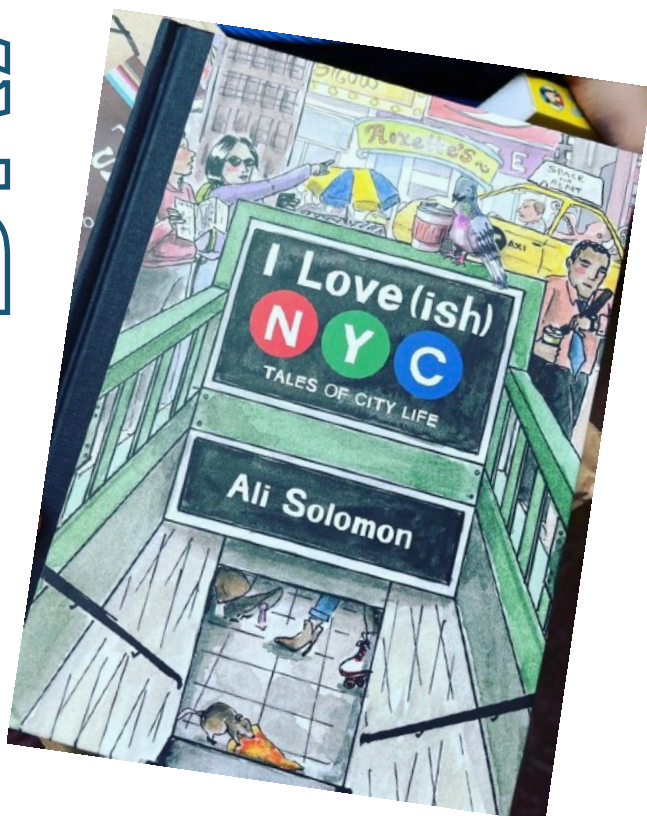
Email brookvillemfc@gmail.com for the link



www.brookvillemultifaithcampus.org

BRAG BOX

Congratulations to Dan and Victoria Briguglio in the birth of their daughter Jordan Alexandra on Oct 15. The proud grandparents are Tom and Rev. Donna Field. Tom is the Vice President of Brookville Church



Congratulations to Ali Solomon Mainhart in her new book: ***I Love(ish) New York: Tales of City Life*** which celebrates the magic of life in the city while gently poking fun at it through essays, illustrations and cartoons. We are so proud of you, Ali and celebrate with you. Check out the article in [timeout.com/newyork](https://www.timeout.com/newyork), and watch her [interview on Pix11](#)

PLUS... don't forget to buy her book! [bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org)

UNIQUE TO OUR MULTIFAITH CAMPUS!

INTERFAITH BAPTISM AND MUSLIM BABY BLESSING

On Sunday, October 23rd Rev. Vicky and Dr. Sultan co-officiated a special ceremony for Noah Francis Mian. Parents Rashed and Jennifer Mian presented their son, Noah to be baptized and to receive a Muslim blessing. What an honor it is to provide these ceremonies for interfaith families.



Rev. Vicky, big sister Abigail, Rashed, Noah, Jennifer and Dr. Sultan



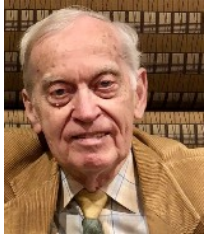
Co-officiants:
Rev. Vicky L. Eastland and Dr.
Sultan Abdulhameed



We know Noah will grow up experiencing God's love through both the Christian and Muslim traditions. Noah, welcome to the family of God!



The Next Chapter



Branch Worsham

For many years we have taken a holiday around the second week of October going to the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia. I have written about it many times. I am not sure why this year seemed different, the Route 66 out of Washington DC was the same and Interstate 81 South with 75 MPH speeds was the same amazing highway with mountain vistas

ahead and on both sides. We started in rain and drove into beautiful sunshine that stayed with us for the whole week.

Sights on the highway began to get familiar and enhanced my pleasure to be back. We have only lived in Toms River, NJ three years and on this trip I wondered about why we chose New Jersey instead of this valley in Virginia? Part of the answer is the bucolic countryside on the flanks of the Blue Ridge and Alleghany mountains. Well, working farm land and mountains are pretty, but don't leave much room for a lot of residents. I realized there aren't any specific retirement communities in the area. More importantly medical care is sparse compared to the scores of hospitals and doctors where we had lived and then resettled.

A year ago the family (our four children and their spouses) decided that I should curtail the long driving we used to undertake and they will volunteer as chauffeurs when we want to make the few favorite trips that still interest us. One of the realities of being older is the difficulties of traveling, any form of traveling. This past July the Florida flight and cruise were okay but tiring and not the idyllic experiences of the past. Having a family member doing the driving was pleasant and allowed me to really see the scenery -- that was way better than I expected.



At the Massanutten Resort we own a pair of two bedroom houses connected together by a hallway; the property is like living in a quiet neighborhood. The Resort is celebrating its fiftieth year in 2022 and we have only been involved there for 25 years. The original facilities are still being used but they are fifty years old and their age shows in the design and interiors. There have been separate developments about every fifteen years and we upgraded and bought into the latest rendition called Regal Vistas which is an appropriate name. Returning again and again puts us into the sacred ground of memories. Now we are seeing memories being made by our youngest granddaughters. We have given ownership to our son Paul and his daughters, Alyssa (4) and Avalyn (2), get to go to Massanutten 3 or 4 times a year and already call the place the mountain house.



On some days, on some trips, joy is generously strewn along my life's path, glistening in the sunlight. On days like that being content is as simple as breathing the next breath or taking the next step. Now, in our eighties, Nancy and I revel in our memories and delight in repeating them. One of the reasons we go on the second October weekend is to be able to visit the small town of Monterey, Virginia during their Hands & Harvest celebration. The town library always has a book sale that keeps us going back. This year may have been their best sale. The week before a group of library volunteers sort the books by author and for us that sped up our selection process. Then at the checkout we were told to pay whatever we wish. That might encourage someone to go get some more books, but we had a Bankers Box and a large grocery bag both filled with over forty books. All four of us bought books again this year.

"Tempura mutantur, et nos mutamur in illis," is a Latin phrase: times are changing and we are changing with them. We are always in the process of becoming, even at 86 years. I wish to become a grand grandfather, someone who will be remembered kindly and with deep pleasure.

~ Branch Worsham

BEAT NAVY!



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

Muslim Reform Movement Organization

muslimreform@hotmail.com

In Person 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

Shabbat Services
One Friday a month, 7:00 PM

[CLICK FOR ZOOM LINK](#)

Interfaith Community of L.I.

allison@interfaithli.org

In person classes for children

[CLICK FOR INFO](#)