

Brookville

Multifaith Campus

NEWS



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

March
2024

One house, many faiths, endless opportunities for growth!

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516-626-0414

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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.

Season of Lent

February 14th was Ash Wednesday, where the church marked the beginning of the season of Lent with the marking of ashes on our foreheads in the sign of a cross. Brookville Church has not traditionally practiced this ritual but it isn't just reserved for the Roman Catholic church.

This act of the marking of ashes refers to Genesis 3:19 where it says that from dust we came and to dust we will return. We can relate humans coming from the common dirt, being formed from the earth and when we die returning to the earth. But another way of looking at it is that the dust of the earth is made of star dust, so we are one with the universe in the sense that we are made of the stuff of stars.

So this concept doesn't go to our heads, Christians observe the season of Lent, a 40 day period in the life of the church as a time of remembering our humanity, the reality of death and our need for repentance of sins. We often do this through fasting, prayer and giving. During Lent we recognize our brokenness as humans and our need for a Savior. Fasting during Lent helps us clear distractions from our lives and replace those distractions with prayer and worship, which hopefully results in a deeper relationship with God.

The Lenten season is one of preparation for the death and also resurrection of Jesus at Easter.

The 40 days begin on Ash Wednesday and end on Holy Thursday, three days before the joyous celebration of Easter. These forty days do not include Sundays, as Sundays are each considered a "mini resurrection", a reflection of Jesus' conquering of death. It is not a requirement to fast on Sundays during Lent. Instead it can be the day you get to "rest" from your fast, and pick it up again on Monday. Most Christians will choose a particular food to fast from, such as chocolate or meat but will get to enjoy those things on Sundays.



The 40 days of Lent honors multiple stories in the Bible as 40 is a very Biblical number. God sent 40 days and nights of rain during the great flood of Noah. (Genesis 7:4) The Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years in search of the Promise Land. (Numbers 14:33) Moses spent 40 days on Mount Sinai with

God receiving the Ten Commandments. (Exodus 24:18) Jesus fasted in the wilderness for 40 days while he was tempted by the devil. (Matthew 4:1,2; Mark 1:12,13; Luke 4:1,2) The practice of giving something up for Lent is not for the purpose of depriving yourself, instead it is intended to draw one closer to God, to grow spiritually through the development of self-discipline.

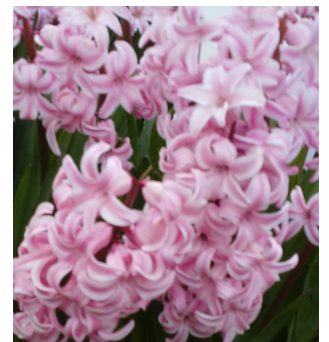
May we all draw closer to God this Lenten season.

~ Rev. Vicky

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 March 15** brookvillechurch@gmail.com with:

1. Your name
2. How many lilies, tulips, hyacinths and daffodils you'd like to order
3. In honor or in memory of...
4. Method of payment - Check, [Givebutter](#) or [Venmo](#) @Brookville-Church (7478)



\$15 per plant



The Holiday of Purim

This month, on March 23rd, we have the holiday of Purim, which celebrates the miraculous saving of the Jewish people (in the Persian Empire) from the genocidal plans in the Fifth Century BCE. The entire story is told in the Book of Esther, which does not mention God.

The story begins with King Ahashverosh celebrating his vast empire. During the celebration, the King summons the Queen, Vashti, to show her beauty to all the dignitaries. Vashti refused to appear, and the incensed King had her killed for her disobedience. As time passed, the King desired a new queen, and a search was begun among all the eligible maidens in the kingdom.

The leader of the Jewish community, Mordecai, instructed his niece, Esther, to present herself as a possible replacement for the queen, but not to divulge her Jewishness. When the King met Esther, he was impressed, and she was elevated to Queen. Meanwhile, Mordecai, while sitting near the palace gate, overheard a plot to assassinate the King. He told Esther, who reported it to the King, thus saving his life.

Years later, the King elevated Haman, an evil and wicked man, as his chief advisor. Haman expected everyone to bow down to him but Mordecai refused because he would only bow to God. Haman wanted to punish Mordecai and destroy the entire Jewish people in Persia for this insult. Haman convinced the King to go along with his plans. Mordecai learned of the plot to kill all of the Jews, began to mourn, and told Esther of the evil decree. He instructed Esther to intercede on the Jews' behalf. This was a risk for Queen Esther, because approaching the King uninvited was punishable by death.

Mordecai encouraged Esther to take the risk explaining, "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another

place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14) The Jewish community held a three-day fast. Esther entered the King's inner court, and the King granted Esther an audience, promising her that virtually anything she would ask would be granted. Esther invited the King and Haman to two banquets. During this time, Haman was having gallows built to kill Mordecai, after which he would have all the Jews killed.

At the second banquet Esther revealed Haman's evil plot and that she was Jewish. She asked the King to spare "my soul and my people." Ahashverosh angrily ordered Haman to be hanged on the gallows intended for Mordechai. The King elevated Mordechai as his chief advisor, and the Jews won tremendous victories and were saved from the threat of total annihilation.

Purim is now preceded by a fast, in memory of Esther's fast, followed by reading the story of Esther, celebrating, dressing in costumes, drinking, and giving gifts of food to each other. While all of this is important, the direct message from Mordecai to Esther applies to each one of us. He reminded Esther that she could remain silent, not take the risk to approach the King, and save the Jews from destruction; however, another person would be used for salvation of the Jews, and Esther and her family would perish. She was placed in her position "for such a time as this?" Also, God has not been mentioned in the story, although "God's guiding hand" was present throughout. This is a reminder to us that even though there are times when God does not appear to be present in our lives, the Lord is present and has placed us in our current situations for a purpose. This special holiday reminds us that each one of us was created for "such a time as this."

~ Rabbi Scott Matous

Self-Renewal in Ramadan

Ramadan is a month of self-renewal. It gives us an opportunity to examine our lifestyle and re-center on principles of wisdom. We aim to emerge from the month stronger physically as well as spiritually. There are many blessings in Ramadan, here we discuss three basic aspects that can help us.

1.) Better Eating Habits

The hadith of prophet Muhammad in which he says: "Fast for you will become healthy," sets the goal for us. At another time, when asked why he and his companions were so healthy, he said: "We are a people who do not eat when we are not hungry, and when we eat we do not fill ourselves". This is

Continued next page...

Self-Renewal in Ramadan, continued...

timeless wisdom. In modern nutrition science, eating less is called 'Calorie Restriction'. Please look up the evidence (at a reputable source such as National Institute of Health or WebMD) to learn how it protects from diseases and leads to a healthy and longer life. The practice of fasting is designed to train us to develop this habit. By choosing to go without food through the day, experiencing hunger and not eating, day after day for a month, a person can learn to say no to food even when not fasting.

Fasting can help us become healthy if we practice it the way it was intended, that is, learn to overcome the temptation of food. If, on the other hand, a person fasts during the day but overeats in the evening he or she has defeated the purpose of the fast.

In order to be healthy we also want to pay attention to what we eat or drink. Every aya in the Quran related to food begins with the advice that we eat what is tayyib which is translated as pure and wholesome. Our bodies are made up of what we eat, and, we owe it to ourselves to give up unhealthy foods that we are used to. It is easy to look up health impact of what we eat and make wise choices.

There is overwhelming medical evidence that excessive eating leads to being overweight and obesity, which is related to a large number of diseases: high blood pressure, heart disease, diabetes, arthritis, several types of cancer, Alzheimer's, abdominal hernias, varicose veins, gout and other diseases.

Fasting is for healthy people: Because the purpose is to protect health, people whose health can be damaged by food or water deprivation should not fast. People who are sick or weak or malnourished are exempted from fasting. People suffering from mental illness such as depression, anxiety or schizophrenia should not fast, as well as people going through emotional crises such as death in the family or divorce. The current corona virus epidemic poses a threat to people with poor immunity. If you are weak or elderly, it is advisable for you to consult your physician if fasting is safe for you. In aya (2:184) people who do not fast are asked to provide food for a needy person for each missed fast.

2.) Work Ethic in Ramadan

In previous centuries work that required mental focus was not common. But in modern times most professional work is rigorous requiring intense concentration for long hours. This includes people

who work with machines or instruments and those in computer-based professions. Loss of mental acuity because of hunger, thirst or sleep deprivation can cause mistakes and loss of productivity. Allowing such losses to occur without informing your employer is dishonest and contrary to the spirit of Ramadan. Contributing our best effort for the wages we receive is important for maintaining a person's spiritual integrity.

An honest way is to inform your employer that you intend to fast and come to an agreement about how any deficiency in your work is to be compensated for. It can be by someone else backing you at work, or you taking time off for the days you fast. If this is not feasible you can provide food for the poor instead of fasting.

3.) Becoming Mindful in Prayer

Prayer (salat, dua, zikr) is basic to faith. For prayer to help us we must be conscious of what we say. Prayer performed as a ritual in which we are not aware of what we are saying is harmful, as pointed out in sura 107, ayas 4-5: There is calamity for those who pray, who are unmindful in their prayer.

Praying Arabic words you don't understand causes confusion because the mind looks for meaning, and not finding any wanders in different directions. These haphazard thoughts become your prayer. We all have seen people who have been praying in this fashion for years and their lives have become empty, weak or aimless.

Prophet Muhammad said that: Prayer is your conversation with God. Prophet Muhammad prayed in his own language, with words he deeply understood. Our prayer will also become meaningful if we think deeply about what we say. We want to think about how these words relate to our lives.

Mindful prayer is the major resource for a person of faith because what we say to God knowingly and repeatedly can come to us, as it is promised in aya (14:34): He gives you something out of everything you ask for.

Practicing these habits during this month can set us on the path to a significantly improved life in the years to come.

~ *Sulan Abdulhameed*





*Come celebrate both Purim and Palm Sunday
in a way that only Brookville
Multifaith Campus can!!*
Sunday March 24, 10 AM

The students of the IFC Religious Education Program will lead the congregation of the Brookville Church in a **Purim/Palm Sunday Play.**

They will integrate important aspects of Purim like festivity and playfulness with the solemnity and drama of the Palm Sunday procession.

Everyone is welcome to join in the fun and excitement of the season!

You are not likely to find a celebration like this anywhere else!



How can I stay informed about IFC?

EMAIL

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

SOCIAL MEDIA

IFCLI website: <https://www.interfaithli.org/home>

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

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

Upcoming Interfaith Community Events!

Sunday 3/24 10 AM

Youth-led Palm Sunday and Purim Celebration

Interfaith religious education classes
11 AM

Sunday 3/31 10 AM

Easter Service and Egg Hunt

Sunday 4/21 11 AM

Interfaith religious education classes



Easter **SUNDAY**

Come celebrate at
Brookville Church
Sunday March 31
at 10 AM

Children's
Easter Egg Hunt
Following the
Easter Worship
Celebration



**SYNAGOGUE OF THE MONTH
VIRTUAL SHABBAT SERVICE
5784**

The New Synagogue of Long Island
The Synagogue for Spiritual Judaism
Rabbi Scott Matous, Cantor Irene Failenbogen

**Synagogue of the Month
Virtual Shabbat Service at 6:30 PM**

Please join us on **Friday, March 8, 2024**

The Community of the New Synagogue of Long
Island,

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. Your contributions are
the lifeblood of The New Synagogue. Please help
us keep alive our inspiring teachings of Spiritual
Judaism.

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

[Donate online](#)

[Zoom Invitation](#)

[Shabbat Service Booklet](#)

[Synagogue of the Month](#)

Email: newsynagogue.li@gmail.com

www.newsynagogue-li.org



**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
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*”





TORAH MAINTENANCE

On Sunday February 25th the Torah of the New Synagogue of Long Island had its annual check up.

At Temple L'Dor VaDor in Oyster Bay, Rabbi Druin from Sofer on Site checked out that our Torah is in good health and perfectly restored for the congregation to enjoy.

Cantor Irene and Rev Bill are pleased to announce, with the authority of Rabbi Druin, the Sofer, that the Torah scroll of the New Synagogue of Long Island is in "A plus condition."

Rev. Dwight Wolter, a United Church of Christ pastor in Patchogue, who led a workshop on loneliness on our campus

last month, was interviewed for an article on the [UCC website](#)



If you have something you would like to brag about please send your submissions to brookvillemfc@gmail.com by the 20th of the month prior.

We'd love to celebrate with you!

Remember
Daylight Savings Time
starts Sun, March 10, 2024.
"Spring Forward"!

Saturday
April 27
7:30 PM

OY FATHER

The Makor Center
109 E 39th Street
New York, NY 10016



Come and see this musical
love story between a Catholic
Priest and a Jewish Cantor!

Music by Cantor Irene Failenbogen
Script by Rev. Bill McBride.

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

Tickets are **\$25** each and are available at the door
or call Cantor Irene Failenbogen at 646-592-7932



CAMP WARWICK

CAMP SUNRISE



- Week 1**
June 30-July 5
- Week 2**
July 7-12
- Week 3**
July 14-19
- Week 4**
July 21-26
- Week 5**
July 28-August 2



Ages: 18-55
Cost: \$1,100 per week
Get \$30 off your first week if you register through May 1!

For more information and registration link, visit our website

www.campwarwick.org



Are you interested in volunteering or being on our summer staff? Visit our website for more information and link to our application site!



with **CAMP SUNRISE**

Volunteers work alongside our summer staff to build relationships with, care for, and support our campers each week.



The link to our volunteer application can be found at www.campwarwick.org/volunteer

Anyone who has completed 9th grade and is at least 15+ years old are encouraged to apply!

Are you looking for service hours? We would love to sign off on 80 hours for a week in the summer or 25 hours for a Snowball weekend!

Coexist Crafts and Collectibles Fair

Saturday, June 8th

10 AM to 3 PM

Indoor/Outdoor event

Craft Vendors wanted

Tag sale items may be donated after May 1.

Anyone interested in participating on our planning committee please contact Lisa Denison at LMDenison24@gmail.com or text at 516-695-1123.

The Next Chapter



By now you readers know my family has been cruising enthusiasts, sailing in powerboats and sailboats on the northeast coastal waters. For a long time I was the recipient of a magazine called Power & Motoryacht. Every

month it arrived filled with great information and stories about cruising. There was never an annual fee to me or a price on the front cover. The deal was a common arrangement with the advertisers who paid the publisher to print and mail the issues to their boating readers. There was a brief annual inquiry about my address and boating status, mostly - did I own a boat? When I sold the last boat I did not return the questionnaire and expected the subscription to expire. It didn't. Thus it went on for more than twenty years. In January this year the questionnaire added more questions to the form that I had not been answering. They apologized for the new form and the intruding questions. They asked what kind of boat did I have? What length? What did I use it for? Where did I sail? Do I expect to buy a boat this

year? Or next year? I decided this time to respond, especially to the last two questions. NO. My current free subscription expires in MAY - just two issues away. I expect that to be the last one I get. I will miss the good reading and beautiful crafts.

Another favorite publication was the Yankee magazine; about New England, not Yankees of NYC baseball fame. It came every year as a gift from my daughter, Marie. This year I asked her to stop ordering it for me. Yankee received her message and tried to save a customer by asking me directly if I wanted to renew. The annual fee is reasonable, but I decided to cancel the subscription for personal reasons. I know I will not be visiting New England again, traveling there is too difficult for both of us. I really enjoyed that magazine, even reading the advertisements, but having the stories and seeing the pictures would sadden me too much. A cold turkey cancellation seems to be the best choice this year.

The Next Chapter, continued

The fifth of February gave me reason to think of the blessings for so many years; I added another year - 88 and still counting. During many days of the week, aspects of my comfortable life are changing; the changes that occur have reminders that they cannot be reversed. I have written before that when I was a serious middle aged runner I would always respect the elderly men and women who slowly walked across the street. Watching their effort that is so profound and I knew one day I would be one of them. I am that person now. It is a pleasant surprise every time someone asks me if I need some help or even more encouragingly say it directly to me, "May I help you?" I need those reminders because I still think I am in the body I had 20 plus years ago.

The clamor about elderly people being forgetful is more understandable when I forget something I really, really know and wonder, "How can I be so forgetful?" There are times when my memory works just fine and then it doesn't for a brief moment. The name, or the date or the place that is still with me but not capable of instant recall is frustrating and embarrassing. Then the moment is passed and the opportunity is gone. Good people don't make comments that compound the gaff, good people understand the process of aging and may be dodging their own becoming old.

One change that has not come yet is dining on delicious food. We read Cook's Illustrated magazine which comes bimonthly and occasionally find something our limited skills can prepare; or something I have always liked is written up as worthy of all kinds of glowing praise. The common knowledge is that taste diminishes with age, but I think that in those moments our

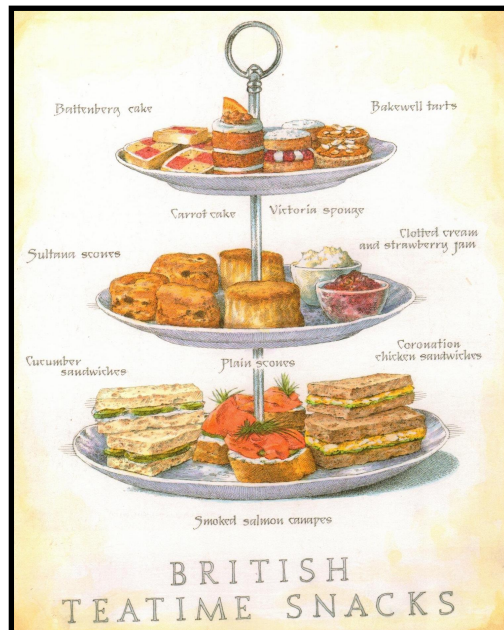
mind fills in the gap, at least I think mine does, and the long loved dish or morsel has refreshingly and kindly touched my still discriminating palate with joy of taste.

The current issue of Cook's magazine has filled their back cover with one of my all time favorite desserts and just seeing the picture reminds me of having a cream tea interlude in England with strawberry jam and clotted cream on a perfect English scone. The tea is essential to clear the

palate after each delightful bite so that the next taste is as especially scrumptious as the rest. When the magazine arrived I decided to find a way to have a Cream Tea anytime I wanted at home. Going online there are half a dozen bakeries across the country selling British scones, but their prices are outrageously high. Cooks will send me their scone recipe and I might go to that source. Then, as this story progressed, the local Jersey Shore paper had an article about a bakery that makes scones in lots of flavors. The place is about three miles away and the owner says if he

doesn't have the scone I want he will make them for me, "Would six be enough?" The baker has been in business only two years and has uncharacteristic hours for a bakery -- 9 to 5. His location is in an industrial park that has industrial hours - 9 to 5, only Mon-Friday. It will be on my next trip in the direction.

The local grocery store has Clotted Cream which is a delightful sweet substitute for whipped cream. Strawberry Preserves (not jam or jelly) is the other sugary item on the plate. I was unable to get to the bakery so this leaves me with this first time ever "to be continued" ending.



Branch Worsham