

Brookville

Multifaith Campus



*Where our doors and
hearts are always open!*

NEWS

August
2020

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The Interfaith Community of Long Island

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Mission Statement

To build a multifaith community of people from different faiths who connect to one another by embracing similarities while celebrating differences

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.

Find a Place to Belong
Brookville Multifaith Campus invites you to discover a spiritual community made up of different religious groups. Together we promote cross cultural understanding, peace building, and a strong commitment. Each group maintains its own religious identity but fosters an open environment for learning, celebrating and honoring each distinct religion.



A Unique Relationship

In Warwick, New York there is a plot of land, 465 acres to be exact, that the Reformed Church in America (RCA) purchased in 1959 to use as a youth camp for RCA churches in the area. This property had

originally been bought by the New York Telephone Company as a vacation spot for employees. The property changed hands three more times before the RCA bought it.

On the property there are two old lodge type buildings that were erected in 1926 and 1928, named East and West House. These buildings were first used to house sleep away camp for the youth. At the time, it worked well for camp. The buildings are connected by a tunnel system between them and it was fun for the kids to explore those tunnels. But over time, it became apparent that this was no longer a suitable place to hold camp and there were acres and acres of undeveloped land that could be better utilized for youth camp.

In the early 1980s a vision was developed to take some of that land and build a proper camping facility that would accommodate the needs of the youth who came to have a fun camping experience. These new camp facilities were completed in 1986. They included wooden cabins that were set in quads of four cabins each, which included bathrooms and wooden bunk beds.



On one side of the new mess hall, the kids could take in a breath-taking view of the rolling hills that spanned beyond the property and into the town of Warwick itself.



To accomplish this vision, a large capital campaign had to be done to raise the funds to bring this into reality. Brookville Church gave around \$10,000 and one of the cabins was named after the church.



From the inception of the camping ministry (while still housed in the old buildings) one of the programs that was offered was Camp Sunrise for the mentally and physically differently-abled. Many of Brookville Church's youth attended sleep away camp, even before the new facilities were built, including Camp Sunrise.

Continued on next page....

(A Unique Relationship continued...)

After the new camping facilities were completed and were being utilized, Brookville Church established a scholarship fund to send underserved youth from Long Island to Camp Warwick. Around 1992, we began funding youth to spend a week at camp and over the years have sent hundreds of kids who would not have had the opportunity to have a Christian camping experience otherwise. Some enjoyed their experience so much that they went on to volunteer as Camp Sunrise counselors and eventually became part of the paid summer staff. To help fund these scholarships, the Women's ministry at Brookville Church began holding "Attic Treasures" sales in the basement of the church. Once I came to Brookville in 2012, we began holding youth coffeehouse concerts to keep the scholarship program alive after the Attic Treasures sales had lived its life.

Once the youth camp moved into its own facilities, the old East and West House lodges became retreat and conference center spaces and the money brought in was used to fund summer camp expenses. Over the years, Brookville Church has continued to support the ministries of Warwick Conference Center and Camp.

My son, Raju, has been on paid summer staff for four summers and in January of 2019, my husband, Rev. James Eastland, became the new Executive Director. He brought with him business, management, education, parish ministry and fundraising/development skills. In the first year he helped oversee last summer's youth camping ministry as well as new adult programs for the conference and retreat side of the organization.

As he began his 2nd year, the pandemic hit and all programming shut down. At the end of June he was forced to lay off all the staff except two essential employees to maintain the property.

Rev. James, along with the two employees left, have had to take on extra responsibilities that were not in any of their original job descriptions, including office work and other responsibilities to insure that the property is maintained as best as possible. One of the biggest jobs is the mowing of the vast acreage, which in itself is a full-time 40 hour a week job!

Thankfully, Governor Cuomo allowed day camps to open this summer, so a small summer staff has been hired to run a very different looking day camp from any Camp Warwick has ever seen. With full-time staff laid off and no lodging or food services available, all counselors hired had to be local so they could return to their homes at night. Both staff and campers have to provide their own lunches, and with the mask requirements for counselors, it makes for very hot and tiring days.

On behalf of Warwick Conference Center and Camp, Rev. James and I want to thank Brookville Church for its financial support over the years.

~ Rev. Vicky Eastland

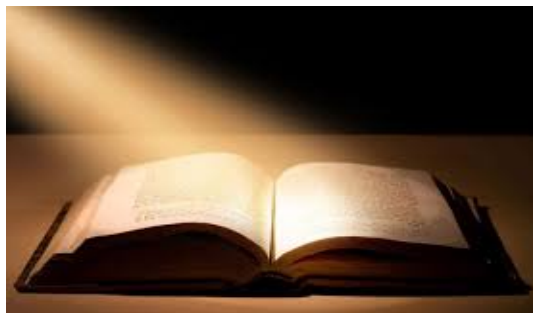


If you long for connection with God and others in an open and affirming Christian community, then join us on Sundays at 10 a.m. for uplifting worship and fellowship. We will continue to hold online worship through the month of August. Email: brookvillechurch@gmail.com for the link.

To ensure everyone's continued safety our beautiful campus will remain closed for the month of August. We will keep you informed as to our reopening plan once in place.



ONLINE BIBLE STUDY



ALL ARE WELCOME
Mondays, Aug. 3 & 17 at 6:30 PM.
Email brookvillechurch@gmail.com for the link

Support the Brookville Reformed Church
by shopping at smile.amazon.com

amazonsmile

Already love Amazon? How about using **AmazonSmile!** The same great Amazon you love but with .05% of the profits being automatically donated to us!



<https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/1787>

Create an account and designate the fund you want your donation to go to.



You can now donate to
Brookville Church through
Venmo.com account
@Brookville-Church

Brookville Church Mission Statement:

Brookville Church is a welcoming, friendly and heartfelt community who follows the teachings of Jesus; a message of love, acceptance, healing and hope. We affirm that all people are beloved children of God and therefore embrace any age, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic status, marital status, family configuration, physical or mental ability or education, and invite the full inclusion of all people into the life and ministries of Brookville Church. We believe diversity enriches our journey together in faith and propels us to an ever expanding understanding and experience of God.

Elul Thoughts



Elul is the 12th and final month in the Jewish calendar. It is a month that connects the past year with the coming year - a time when we reflect on where we stand and where we should be going. *Elul* is traditionally a time of introspection

and stocktaking - a time to review one's deeds and spiritual progress over the past year and prepare for the upcoming "Days of Awe" of *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur*.

The month of *Elul* has been quite difficult for me – my cell phone rebelled. First it played with me by pretending to remain charged at 100% far past the point when that was even possible, and then it died. I tried to resuscitate it and gave it a fresh round of CPR (Cell Phone Repair), but alas, it had breathed its last breath. No cell phone repair store was open because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. I could not get a new phone from Apple for at least a week. How was I going to survive this?

Well, after three days of CPW (Cell Phone Withdrawal) something strange happened. I discovered that my backyard is quite beautiful. There are rose bushes and daffodils and even a few birds that like to perch on the bird house. Shockingly, my beautiful wife likes it when I look at her when she speaks. I even smiled when she made a funny comment. My ears suddenly started working, and I even heard her when she asked me to take out the garbage.

Thankfully, I received my new phone from Apple, but this experience has taught me that it might just be time to slow down and smell the roses, and perhaps leave the phone at home by mistake/on purpose. The month of *Elul* is a month dedicated to introspection and reflection. Perhaps we need to orchestrate phone-down times in our day-to-day lives so that we can live in the mundane world without the natural mundane distractions.

Have we become more connected to our iPhones than to the people in our life who need us most? Have we forgotten that we are G-d's partner every day in the creation of love, acceptance, tolerance, peace, and joy? G-d guides the steps of humanity. Wherever we are and whatever we experience are paths to learning and growth.

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

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

The month of *Elul* reminds me of a verse in *Song of Songs*: *Ani Le Dodi Ve Dodi Li* (I am my Beloved's and my Beloved is mine"). *Elul* is a time to really look at our Beloved, our G-d in Heaven. In order to truly see G-d, we need to put down the distractions. We need to put down our phones because only then can we pick up the messages that are being sent our way!

Quick, let me text that to someone . . .

~ Rabbi Stuart A. Paris, *HaKohen*





SYNAGOGUE OF THE MONTH SHABBAT SERVICE 5780

ב'ה

The New Synagogue of Long Island The Synagogue for Spiritual Judaism

Rabbi Stuart Paris, Hakohen
Rabbi Scott Matous
Cantor Irene Failenbogen

Synagogue of the Month Virtual Shabbat Service
Aug. 7 & 21, 2020 at 7:00 pm

The Zoom Meeting link is the same. Save it as a Favorite!

If you need the link, please email:

Amy Schombs: amy@interfaithli.org

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

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:

Rabbi Stuart Paris ~ 10 Cuttermill Road, Suite 302 ~ Great Neck, NY 11021
NewSynagogue.LI@gmail.com ~ www.newsynagogue-li.org

I / We are happy to join you for the Synagogue of the Month Service.

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: _____



Fortunately, Unfortunately

Things don't always go exactly as we plan. If life could be summed up in a picture book, Fortunately, Unfortunately could easily be selected as life's spokesperson. Life brings bad and good events and often good comes from what seems like bad! The book offers different ways to look at situations. The alternatives...

Fortunately, we have been able to attend zoom worship services; Unfortunately, we miss seeing our members face-to-face.

Fortunately, we are thankful for the health and safety of our family and friends. Unfortunately, there are many that have suffered terrible losses over the last few months.

Fortunately, we continued to work and attend school during this pandemic. Unfortunately, virtual learning and meetings did not work for all.

Fortunately, we were able to spend time in our neighborhood: going on walks and bike rides. Unfortunately, there were days when even these small "getaways" were not enough.

It is hard to believe that quarantine began over four months ago. How different life was then! There was so much that we took for granted. Now we have the arduous task of moving forward. Unfortunately, there seem to be more questions than answers. Fortunately, we will take this arduous task just one day at a time.

Until we meet again...

~ Christine Mankes

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience but where he stands in times of challenge and controversy.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Check our Facebook page for up to date information about fall classes:
www.facebook.com/ifcli

Visit our website at
www.interfaithli.org

Email amy@interfaithli.org to get on the mailing list



Life Enhancing Teaching in Sura 103

Passage of Time

Sura 103: Al-Asr

By the passage of Time, Verily, man is in loss, Except those who develop faith, and do good deeds, And join together in the mutual teaching of Truth, And of patience and constancy.

In physics, the law of entropy is known. It says that disorder increases in a system with time unless you supply energy to it.

Suppose you buy a piece of land and leave it unattended. In a few days, weeds will start growing. Passersby will throw garbage in it. Rats and snakes will come to live there. With the passage of time, it will become an ugly and dangerous place. For this piece of land to be neat and beautiful, you have to work regularly on its upkeep. Passage of time creates deterioration unless there is an input of effort or energy. This sura points out that the same principle applies to life also:

By the passage of Time, Verily, man is in loss...

Life can become an unhappy experience as time passes unless you energetically embrace faith. We can observe this in the people we know. While most young people are dreaming of great things, most old people live with regret. For the majority past a certain age, life appears like a no-win struggle. Many failed in the search for career success, wealth, fame, and love. Those who won some trophies find that the glitter goes away after a while. The children were so adorable when little but have grown up to cause you unhappiness. Henry Thoreau expressed this condition in his famous statement: "The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation. What is called resignation is

confirmed desperation; a stereotyped but unconscious despair is concealed even under what are called the games and amusements of mankind."

This sura provides a prescription for avoiding this fate. It says that people lose in life:

...Except those who develop faith, and do good deeds And join together in the mutual teaching of Truth, And of patience and constancy.

Many times people talk about faith in complex theological language. But no matter which philosophy of faith we like, the bottom line is that positive faith is manifested in "good deeds," that is, in benevolence toward the world.

A small child experiences the world mostly in a self-centered manner: he feels that the role of others is primarily to meet his needs and desires. As we grow emotionally and spiritually, we can begin to grasp the notion that making contributions that go beyond our survival instincts gives us lasting meaning and satisfaction. Faith is, thus, obtained gradually.

There are many adults who have not grown beyond childish self-absorption. They live primarily for themselves, and in this way, fulfillment escapes them. They are unable to overcome feelings of jealousy, fear, and desperation. They wonder why in spite of hard work and the many things they acquired, they do not feel happy. Only through growth of our awareness that others are like us and a conviction to share the fruits of our talents with them can we find deep happiness and meaning. Confucius expressed this concept by saying, "The man of virtue, wishing to be established himself, seeks also to establish others; wishing to be enlarged himself, he seeks also to enlarge others."

Continued on next page....



(Life Enhancing Teaching ... continued)

In order to benefit from this teaching, we need to orient our short and long-term goals so that they benefit not only ourselves but also others. We can choose to leave home every day with the intention of making a positive difference where we go and in what we do. When we come back home, we can choose to enter with the intention of making a positive difference in the lives of those who live with us.

And join together in the mutual teaching of Truth...

Progress in faith is not automatic. Our thinking is molded by the people we meet regularly. The company we keep has a decisive impact on the direction of our lives.

The word "Truth" represents profound knowledge. Insight beyond the superficial is not obtained casually. Most of us get introduced to

religion in childhood. The meanings and interpretations we have are derived from what our parents and teachers told us. In order to grow beyond childhood conditioning, we need to find the company of those who are seeking wisdom, and we need to form bonds such that we support each other in this quest.

And of patience and constancy.

Centering yourself in faith is a process. It requires giving up false beliefs and the lifestyle that goes with it. It is essential to be in the company of friends who are patient and encouraging when we falter and rejoice when we succeed, not the company of those who are critical of our efforts and jealous when they see us grow.

~ Dr. Sultan Abdulhameed

Muslim Reform Movement Organization (MRMO)

**Quran Study by Zoom
Every Sunday**

2:30 -4:30 p.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

To be invited to the meeting, please send an email to <mailto:muslimreform@hotmail.com>

Hosted by: Dr. Sultan Abdulhameed, author of "The Quran & the Life of Excellence"

The Next Chapter



In the process of moving away from our Long Island house which held 53 years of household belongings, we knew they would not all go into a six-room retirement home. A lot of memories and the items which they are connected with must be jettisoned or given to

someone who will accept them. Nancy calls it de-acquisitioning, but that isn't a word. She also says de-cluttering, which spellcheck accepts and that is what 53 years of stuff does -- clutter up any space available.

Properly done each item and box and chest and trunk should be opened and perused to determine: what direction to send them; to keep, give away or throw away. Keeping means going back into a box and hauling it to New Jersey where it will hopefully be put in a good place. Selling them would happen at the antique shop or yard sales. Giving away means friends and family first or to Good Will-- i.e. donating. Throwing away can be heart-wrenching sometimes, but it has to be done and it is unfair to make our children have to decide years later. Nancy does spend a lot of time going through all of the options.

Today Nancy said look at what I found. She gave me a stiff white card with a hint of gold on all four sharp edges and eased corners -- a classy piece by itself. It was an invitation to a cocktail party in the Authors' Lounge in the Oriental Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand on Wednesday, August 12, 1992, twenty-eight years ago. Did we go? I would say, "No," because I don't drink, Nancy would say, "Yes," because she brought and also bought lovely dresses and jewelry to dress for just such occasions. It was a delightful trip and the hotel was grand (still is) so we no doubt went. The card has been jettisoned.

That was one card and we have boxes of them. Last night she showed me a picture of her paternal grandmother-- her father's mother -- the only picture we seem to have of her, a German-born Lutheran who died from pneumonia due to the 1918 flu epidemic. That picture is a keeper. And so it goes with every carload of boxes.

Our new house in Toms River, NJ came with a tall, huge Blue Spruce, right in the middle of the front yard. It was huge, over forty feet high, and 45 years old. When we arrived last winter the tree was shedding pine needles every time the wind blew hard because it had Cytospora Canker a common disease. The tree man told me he has contracts to remove about ten such trees near us - all similar to ours. So he did cut it down this week. What a change in the appearance of the front yard. I checked online and found that the Cytospora Canker causes the Spruce Tree to be sensitive to its location. What do we do now? We have already ordered a new tree from the Arbor Day Foundation. I decided to plant the new tree in the back yard and look into what kind of Christmas tree will grow in the front. I really should not be too concerned; 45 years was a long life and the tree really wasn't attractive anymore and too tall to decorate. The best purpose it was serving was a landmark to turn at for our house. After nine months we do know the way now.

~ Branch
Worsham



Example of a Blue Spruce