

Brookville Multifaith Campus



*Where our doors and
hearts are always open!*

NEWS

November
2020

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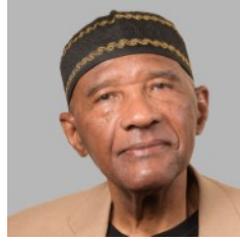
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Vision Statement

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 Statement

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

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 to service. Each group maintains its own religious identity but fosters an open environment for learning, celebrating and honoring each distinct religion.



All Saints Day in an Epic Year of Loss

Every year on November, first Christians around the world observe All Saints Day, which honors all “saints” of the church who have died. This holiday in the

Christian church birthed out of a tradition that originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. In the eighth century, Pope Gregory III designated November first as a time to honor all saints. The All Saints Day celebration was also called All-hallows or All-hallowmas (from the middle English Alholowmesse meaning All Saints Day). The night before it, the night of Samhain in the Celtic religion, began to be called All-Hallows Eve and eventually became known as Halloween.¹

At Brookville Church, All Saints Day has come to be the day in which we read the Necrology, a listing of the people in our faith community who have died in the last year, acknowledging the impact their lives have made on those who are still alive, who have had the privilege of knowing the deceased. It is a day we remember them and light a candle in their honor. This year, if we were to include in the Necrology all who have died from the coronavirus, we would be adding 1.13 million names to the list.² It would take us approximately 26 days to read the names of all who have died!

The other day I was reading a post from a friend on Facebook, Marissa Hammond. She loves to bake and this is what she posted: “Has anyone else had a hard time finding joy in things that used to bring joy since COVID has started? I just

realized I have not baked since March and I love to bake, but now I seem to dread it.” I read the thread of responses and felt comfort in knowing that I was not alone in my lack of joy these days. One response in particular really resonated with me. “Absolutely relate. I practice mindfulness. I remind myself every day that I have much to be grateful for, and I make note of specific things/circumstances in my life for which I am very grateful. But I don’t find joy, excitement, interest in much. I make myself do things. And I try to find

humor whenever I can. Laughter sustains me. We’re social animals. A pandemic is naturally going to cause this type of depression. It’s technically mild depression. And anyone with a shred of empathy isn’t immune to, even passively, mourning for the ill,

those that have passed, and those who are struggling financially, and at least a little afraid. Toss in the chaotic, toxic political climate and it just adds to the unease.”

I can totally relate, how ‘bout you? Our world is experiencing a collective grief and it is ok to have days when you feel unmotivated and down. Be gentle with yourself and those around you and remember that you are loved beyond measure by a God who holds you close. **“The minute I said, ‘I’m slipping, I’m falling,’ your love, God, took hold and held me fast. When I was upset and beside myself, you calmed me down and cheered me up.”** Psalm 94:18,19 (The Message)

Remembering two saints Brookville Church lost this past year: Charles Luyster and Angelo Ceriello (from COVID)

We are never truly alone for God is always with us,
~Rev. Vicky

*“The minute I said,
‘I’m slipping, I’m falling,’ your love,
God, took hold and held me fast. When I was
upset and beside myself, you calmed
me down and cheered me up.”
Psalm 94:18,19 (The Message)*

1. https://www.history.com/topics/halloween/history-of-halloween_10-22-2020

2. <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-deaths#what-is-the-total-number-of-confirmed-deaths10-22-2020>

Brookville Church Mission Statement

We are 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.

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 November. Email: BrookvilleChurch@gmail.com for the link.

WAYS TO SUPPORT BROOKVILLE CHURCH

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



Donate

@Brookville-Church
through [Venmo.com](https://venmo.com) or
download the app

"I like the variety of perspectives. There are participants who have been studying the Bible their whole lives and others who are hearing the stories for the first time." ~ Linda

VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY



"I am learning that many religions stem from the same Biblical narrative. This study makes me want to go deeper into the Word." ~ Barbara

Mondays, Nov. 2, 16 & 20, from 6:30-7:30 PM
Email brookvillechurch@gmail.com for the link.

**ALL FAITHS
WELCOME**

Virtual Choir



Would you like to be a part of a virtual choir for Brookville Church?
We have the technology, we just need the voices!
If you're interested, please email cgoglia@aol.com and sign up!



Thanksgiving: A Jewish Perspective

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.

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.

The idea of giving thanks is a familiar theme in Jewish tradition. Judaism views every day as a day of thanksgiving; every day is a chance to say "thank you" to G-d for the many blessings we have. We gather to eat - the same people, at the same table, with the same enticing aromas wafting in the kitchen. But we do not have a script. Sure, we feast on turkey, argue politics, and watch football. But what about the ritual? What about the meaning?

I offer the following to help you focus, at least for a few moments, on gratitude, a theme that is both deeply American and deeply Jewish.

Embodying Gratitude - When the Biblical Leah gave birth to her first child, she proclaimed, "This time I shall thank the Lord." (Genesis 29:35) She named him Yehuda - Judah - Hebrew for "thankful." When we exercise our hearts to appreciate and train our eyes to take notice of the goodness all around, we invite in the blessings of wonderment and joy. From the words we say upon arising - "*Modeh ani l'fanecha*" "I give thanks to You (for compassionately restoring my soul)" - to the daily multitude of blessings and prayers

in our worship services, our tradition teaches us that showing gratitude is part of our way of life. Every day brings ample opportunities for acts of mindfulness and thanksgiving that can transform our lives and repair the world.

Welcoming Strangers - Thanksgiving and Sukkot are both autumn festivals that celebrate the bounty of the harvest. Both celebrate the courage of pilgrims escaping religious persecution and heading for a new land. Both are holidays of hospitality. On Sukkot, we welcome the *ushpizin* ("exalted guests"). On Thanksgiving, we recall the way the Wampanoag Native Americans welcomed the Puritans, feeding them and teaching them the skills they needed to survive. *Bruchim ha-baim*, "Blessed are you who have come here, exalted guests!" Just as Abraham and Sarah welcomed angelic guests by preparing a meal with the choicest ingredients, we welcome one another with an abundance of food, warmth, and love.

Bringing Light - It is hard to imagine a time more divisive than the one we are living in now. The idea that bringing "Light to the nations" (Isaiah 49:6) shines through the words of Emma Lazarus: "I lift my torch beside the golden door," and the lyrics of Irving Berlin: "God bless America, land that I love. Stand beside her, and

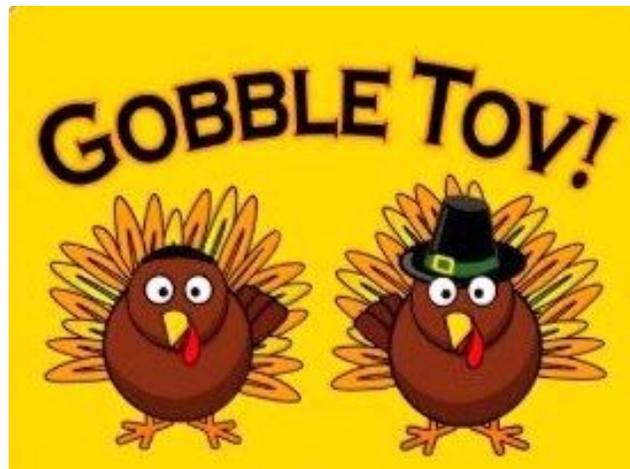
guide her, through the night with the light from above." May we act in virtue and goodness to bring light to our homes, our communities, and our nation. May G-d's love ignite our resolve to bring the light of peace to the world. In the words of the Torah's priestly blessing: "May G-d bless you and protect you. May G-d's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May G-d reach out to you in tenderness and grant you peace." (Numbers 6:23-27)

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'higiyanu 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



SYNAGOGUE OF THE MONTH VIRTUAL SHABBAT SERVICE 5781

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 at 7:00 PM

Please join us on Fridays:
Nov. 6, 20, Dec. 4, 18, 2020

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: _____



Gratitude

Thanksgiving is a great American tradition which people of all traditions celebrate. Gratitude is a key aspect of a Muslim's relationship with God. As an illustration of its deep roots in Muslim belief I share below my

translation of a part of Aljowzi's essay on this subject.

Abdel Rahman Aljowzi was born in Baghdad in the year 1117 (C.E). He authored more than three hundred monographs and books on history, philosophy, religion and ethics and taught for forty years.

Thanksgiving, Its Excellence and Remembrance of Blessings

Let us first review how God speaks about gratitude in the Quran:

It is narrated in Hadith that Prophet Muhammad used to stand in prayer for so long in the night that his feet were swollen. Ayesha said to him "Why do you spend so much time in prayer when God has already forgiven all your sins?" The Prophet replied "Should I then not be grateful to Him?"

He says: *We shall reward the grateful* (3:144)
He says also: *Why would God cause you to suffer if you have attained to faith and are grateful? God always responds to gratitude and is all-knowing.* (4:147).

And He says: *Only a few of My servants are grateful.* (34:13)

God has promised to definitely reward those who are grateful by saying: *If you are grateful I shall certainly give you more and more* (14:7)

How Gratitude is Expressed

Thanksgiving is expressed with the heart, with the tongue and with your limbs. Giving thanks from your heart is when you think of doing something good for God's creation. Giving thanks with your tongue is when you praise God.

Expressing gratitude with your limbs is by using them for a good purpose, and not use them to do harm. For example gratitude with your eyes is when you see defects in someone and not publicize them. Giving thanks with the ears is when you hear something bad about someone and do not repeat it. Giving thanks with your tongue is when you express pleasure with what God has given you. Prophet Muhammad said "Gratitude is when you talk about the blessings God has given you, and to not do this is rejection of faith"

Source of Gratitude

We should know that gratitude, and giving up of ingratitude, is not truly possible without an understanding of what pleases God. This is because being thankful means using what God has given you in ways that please Him, Ingratitude is the opposite of this, you either do not use what has been given to you, or use it in undesirable ways.

To know what pleases God requires a heart with insight, which is extremely rare. That is why God has sent Prophets to make it easier for people to understand.

Anyone who uses what he has in wrongful ways is ungrateful. For example if a man hits someone with his hand without provocation, he is ungrateful for the blessing that his hand is. God has given him the hand to seek benefits and for protection; not to cause pain to others.

Similarly with the eye, if you look at forbidden things you are ungrateful, not only for the eye but also for the sun that gives the light which makes it possible for you to see. The eyes and the sun have been made for you to seek benefits for here and the hereafter, and to avoid things that harm you in the here and in the hereafter.

In our speech and silence, in everything we do we want to be conscious of the distinction between being grateful and ungrateful.

We say that anyone who breaks off a branch from a tree without a real need for it has acted against the

Muslim Reform Movement Organization

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"



New Food Distribution site in Nassau County

Long Island Cares (licares.org) opened a new satellite location in Nassau that distributes food to any Nassau County resident in need. Recipients can go once a month and just need to show they are residents of Nassau County.

Location : 386 North Wantagh Avenue, Bethpage (near Rt 107)
Hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8am - 4pm. Tuesday and Thursday 9am - 5pm.
(the website also lists other locations around Nassau)



We are rostered as an Open and Affirming campus to the LGBTQ+ Community through Room for All

Roomforall.com

Poinsettia Challenge:

Bring some Christmas Cheer into your home and someone else's!

Every year at Christmas time we decorate the Brookville Church sanctuary with poinsettias. Now our "worship space" has expanded to encompass every home that participates in virtual worship.

Help us continue the tradition - with a twist!

1. Order poinsettias for your home and pick them up at church on Sat. December 19
2. Order and deliver an extra plant to someone in need of cheering up (you can choose the person or Rev. Vicky can offer a suggestion)

Each plant costs **\$20.00**

Email the church at brookvillechurch@gmail.com by Dec. 11 and say:

- Your name: _____
- Your phone #: _____
- How many red poinsettias you want: _____
- If you plan to mail a check to the church or use Venmo _____
- If you want a poinsettia or two to be in honor or memory of someone, please write their name(s). We will include their name(s) in our New Year's newsletter that will go out in January. _____
- Let us know if you will be delivering the plant to a loved one or if you would like the church to deliver one on your behalf to someone who could use some cheer. _____



Multifaith Thanksgiving Celebration via Zoom

Sunday, November 15, 2020

10 AM

This is the 7th year of coming together to celebrate Thanksgiving as a multifaith community.

All of our campus faith leaders take part in this hour-long service of religious unity.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND - ALL FAITHS ARE CELEBRATED



Email brookvillemfc@gmail.com
for Zoom link

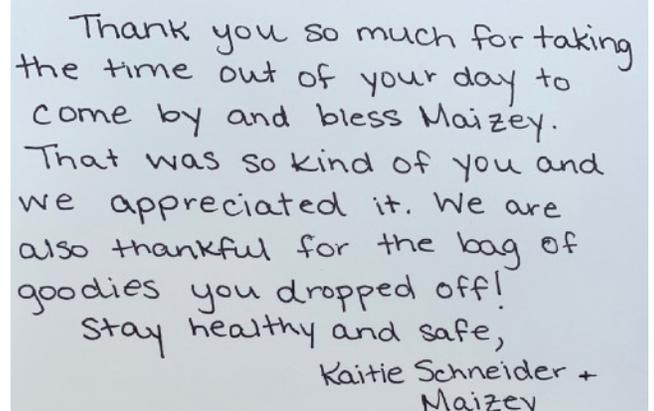
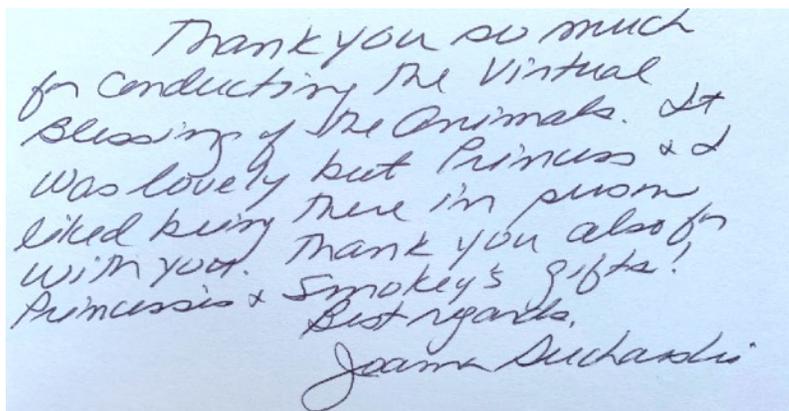
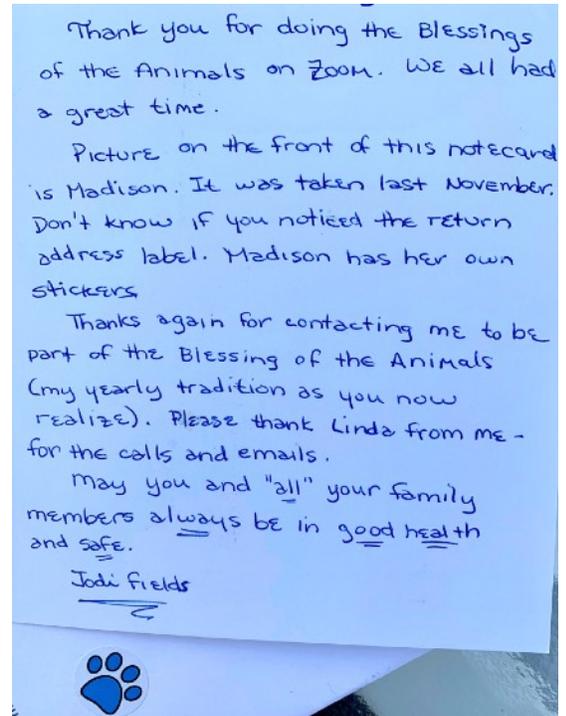
BLESSING OF THE PETS

On October 4, we held our first ever Virtual Blessing of the Pets. All Thirty-seven households who participated had a wonderful time. Each introduced their beloved pets and received a special blessing from Rev. Vicky. Raju Eastland, put together a slideshow of the Blessings of the Animals over the years. If you'd like to see it, you can check it out on our [Facebook page](#).

Not only did the pets in attendance receive a virtual blessing, they also received an in-person visit with a gift bag that included a personalized certificate of blessing, a pet medallion and treats.

Thank you to everyone who participated!

Below are some Thank You cards that we received



BLESSING OF THE PETS



Lola Kalvert



Cirker Family and Huey



Steven Schombs and Obie



Heidi Hunt with Eddie



Seth Cirker with Huey



Kalvert Family with Lola



Kelleher Family with Rocky, and Apollo, Jack's turtles



Berkin-Albers Family with Phoenix's stuffed monkeys



Goglia/Schneider Family with Maizey the dog and Tigo the bird



Danny Worsham with gifts



Klaus Worsham got goodies



Happy Worsham got gifts too!



We are committed both to the continuity of religion and to strong families. Responding to the rapidly growing number of interfaith families who want to respect and support both their religious heritages, the Interfaith Community aims to: provide balanced education in a safe, neutral environment, nurture the distinctiveness of both Judaism and Christianity and support individuals and families as they pursue their own course.

If you would like to be added to our mail distribution list, please email amy@interfaithli.org. You can register for online classes at <http://www.interfaithli.org/membership-class-registration>



Check us out on our website: www.interfaithli.org
Follow us on Instagram @interfaithcommunityli
or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ifcli>



A Silver Lining in the Interfaith Community Zoom Education

One of the silver linings we have found in our challenge to teach via Zoom technology is the opportunity to open our classes to students living outside of Long Island. We have had inquiries from families all over the country wondering if our program will be a good fit for them. Some have chosen to be with us this year, and we are excited to welcome them. Thanks to Steven Schombs, affectionately known as our Zoom Master, we have been able to offer lessons that help us reach our educational goals in a "new normal" way. We hope that as the year goes along, we will avoid Zoom fatigue and push toward Zoom fascination open to more possibilities. For now, we celebrate the light of this silver lining in the COVID-19 cloud facing us this year.

~ Cantor Irene Failenbogen and Rev. Bill McBride - Co-Directors of Education

The Next Chapter



For the past eight weeks I have enjoyed Saturday afternoons because the Army football team has been on television for every game they played and they are playing well and winning. These have been the kind of games I was familiar with as a cadet, nearly seventy years ago, but those games have been absent pretty much

since then. Back in those days, the coach was already a legend and his success brought in exceptional athletes to maintain Army's success.

I was fortunate to be assigned to a room that a football player was also assigned to. Some colleges have special quarters for the players so as to keep them together and hopefully be more successful. West Point has a different opinion - the athletes of all sports, men, and women, will live with their classmates in the barracks, eat together and go to the same classes. Without this camaraderie, there would be two groups with two different experiences, something the Academy does not want. My roommate graduated and achieved his wish and became a jet fighter pilot with action in Viet Nam.

While I was there Army's team had two All American players, one a Heisman Trophy winner. Since then college football has changed because professional football changed and became a dominant force affecting the college level too. About twenty years ago Television was able to make lucrative contracts with the best college teams; I was jealous that Notre Dame was on TV for every game they played, as were some other teams. In the last three or four years Army has been getting more TV time and this year I will see, while at home, all 11 or 12 games - depending only upon Covid-19.

An interesting side story is that the money which TV gives to the Army sports program benefits all of the other teams, men, and women so that they are able to play their sports during the proper season. Last Saturday the woman's' cross country runners defeated Navy at Annapolis and were riding back to West Point on the team bus while Army football was playing in San Antonio, Texas. In the fifties, in my high school, there were no sports teams for the girls -- (only about half a dozen cheerleaders.) At West Point there were no women cadets during my time.

Title 9 was the law which changed woman's sports throughout the nation for all in-school and out-of-school teams at all age levels. I say hurrah for that, my granddaughters can have the same kind of interest and team spirit that I did.

The competition to attend West Point and the other Academies has always been as tight as now. When I entered fresh out of high school there were several new cadets who had spent the previous year studying at their first college year getting math or other academics improved just so they could pass the West Point entrance exam and do well in year one in the military school. Currently there are annually about 10,000 applicants for 1,000 new cadet positions. Some of these are athletic recruits, but they have to pass the entrance exam too. There has been an Army one-year prep school that will take in a certain number of young students and athletes who really want to go to the academy. I remember the congressman who appointed me mentioned the prep school was available as a backup opportunity.

Why did I go? Well, money was significant, my folks could not offer any financial support. I was a top student in my class so college didn't seem daunting. My mother graduated high school with the local congressman who was willing to appoint me. I had five uncles (mom's brothers) who served in WWII so my going into the military was all right with my folks. A great lot of parents will not support good young people going to an academy. I was so confident I did not even apply to another college -- there is where I now thank God for His blessing.

What did I get? An education, confidence, poise, a job, friends, my dear wife Nancy, and knowing that God was with me, is with me and always will be with me. Along the way, good traits like being honorable in all things, understanding that a person has a duty to do many things without shirking that duty and loving my country.

This is the first time I have written this tale, it was encouraged by some friends who said, "Write it before you forget it," So I have.

~ Branch Worsham

BEAT NAVY