

# Brookville Multifaith Campus



*Where our doors and  
hearts are always open!*

## NEWS

December  
2020

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### *The New Synagogue of Long Island*

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Rabbi Stuart A. Paris  
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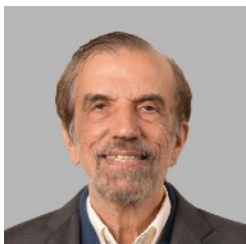
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### *Muslim Reform Movement Organization. MRMO.org*

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### *The Interfaith Community of Long Island*

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Rev. Bill McBride &  
Cantor Irene Failenbogen  
Directors of Education  
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Rev. Enid Kessler  
Spiritual Advisor  
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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.**

*Some thoughts from campus leaders:*



*Rev. Vicki  
Eastland*

### **The Promise of Advent**

There is something magical about this time of year. The lights that begin to appear in our neighborhoods weave a magical spell. As the season progresses, we take short excursions beyond our own neighborhood to view the displays of light. It is not only the sheer visual delight of the decorations that enamors us; it is the expectancy that they herald as well. We are teased into the spirit of a unique season of expectancy and hope. We enter into the mystery of the Coming.

Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, which means – coming. Advent is celebrated as the season of waiting. During Advent, literally the season of the Coming, we begin our watch. We enter into the expectancy, the joy, and the wonder of the season.

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*Dr. Sultan  
Abdulhameed*

### **What Muslims Believe About Nativity**

Muslims believe in the miraculous birth of Jesus. Mary was a virgin and the baby was conceived by the will of God. This is stated in the Quran in surah 3, verses 45-47, as follows:

When the angel said, "O Mary, truly God gives thee glad tidings of a Word from Him, whose name is the Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, highly honored in this world and the Hereafter, and one of those brought nigh.

He will speak to people in the cradle and in maturity and will be among the righteous.

She said, "My Lord, how shall I have a child while no man has touched me?". He said, "Thus does God create what He wills". When He decrees a thing, He says to it "Be!" and it is.

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*Rabbi  
Stuart Paris  
HaKohen*

### **Festival of Lights**

Hanukkah, the Jewish festival of rededication, also known as the Festival of Lights, is an eight day festival beginning on the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev (this year corresponding to December 11th). Hanukkah (alternately spelled Chanukah), meaning "dedication" in Hebrew, refers to the joyous eight-day celebration during which Jews remember the victory of the Maccabees and "rededication" of the Temple in Jerusalem in 165 B.C.E.

According to tradition, at the time of the rededication, there was very little oil left. Oil was needed for the menorah (candelabrum) in the Temple, which was supposed to burn throughout the night every night.

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*Christine  
Mankes*

### **Together, even at a social distance**

With all of the challenges we have been facing these last eight months, the IFC team has been focusing on bringing our children together for classes. Through the herculean efforts of our leaders, a meaningful and valuable virtual education program has been created and our children have been able to participate in two IFC religious education classes so far. Thank you to all of our teachers, parents and kids for your incredible patience and flexibility as we implement this new program! However, one of the pieces from our pre-covid IFC experience was still missing: the gathering of adults while our children are in classes.

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## **The Promise of Advent** (continued from pg. 2)

Advent is a time in which we are invited to turn our attention to the fact that we are recipients of a promise; the promise of the coming of Jesus. Many times we attend to promises that are much more limited and transient in nature: buy this product that contains hyaluronic acid and your wrinkles will disappear. Drive this model of car and you will receive status. Attain this degree to secure that position and you will not only attain knowledge but will achieve wealth. Our media is filled with such promises.

To open ourselves to the possibility that there is a more radical, all-embracing promise than the ones offered by commercial enterprises eager to take our money and play on our restless longings, is to begin to live the season of Advent. What we all dream, what we all hope for is simple. We dream that the glimpses of the fullness of love that we sense occasionally, show us what we were created to become.

When a young father takes his newborn daughter into his arms for the first time; when an estranged couple grope their way painfully back into love again; when a family makes a pilgrimage to the bedside of a dying loved one; when a single woman comes to see her solitary dwelling not as a place of emptiness, but as a nest sheltered under the wing of God; when a community provides an environment for healing; when friends call us to remember our most authentic selves; when a strange and fearful person becomes for us the face

of God; it is then that we begin to sense what we are intended to be, God's children, the children of promise.

Promise is at the heart of the season of Coming. We know something of the wideness of God's promise through the longings of our own hearts and through moments of graced encounters with one another. But most of our moments are cluttered with concerns that tend to bury our heart's longings. And most of our encounters with one another are fraught with the difficulties of communicating authentically.

During the season of Advent we often hear the infancy narrative proclaimed. Those wonderful, passages that seem to be woven into our hearts, like the words from the Gospel of Luke *"The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.... You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.'"* Luke 1:28,31

These narratives are one of the many windows of the season that help us see into the mystery held close in the heart of God. They speak of the birth of Jesus as the fulfillment of promise.

So as we observe the lights that begin to appear in our neighborhoods and we hear the age old story once again told to us during the Advent season, may they be for us the sign of the promise that Jesus is coming.

Blessed Advent Season,  
Rev. Vicky



## **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 December. Email: [BrookvilleChurch@gmail.com](mailto:BrookvilleChurch@gmail.com) for the link.**



## Stepping into 2021! Virtual Campus Open House & Fundraiser

January 30, 2021  
7-8 PM

The Board of Directors of our new 501c3 (Multifaith Center, Inc.) which is the fundraising arm of our multifaith campus will be hosting a virtual Open House and Fundraiser on January 30, 2021 from 7-8 PM. All members of our faith groups are invited to participate either live or via pre-recorded video, to tell how you became involved and what it means to you to be part of the Brookville Multifaith Campus.

The Multifaith Center, Inc. hopes to begin collecting funds to grow an endowment that will support our physical campus for decades to come. A way to begin is by drawing closer to one another through the telling of our stories.

How did you find our campus? How has belonging helped shape who you are today? In what ways has our multifaith family ministered to your family? What is your favorite memory or experience you have had while a part of our campus?

Stories can be up to 3 minutes long, and can be from adults, children, couples or families. All interfaith and single faith members are encouraged to participate.

We hope during this holiday season that everyone in our respective organizations are happy, healthy and joyfully planning to tell us YOUR story as we celebrate a New Year and New Beginnings!

You can email me with questions or information at [LMDENISON24@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LMDENISON24@GMAIL.COM) or call/text me at 516-695-1123

Happy Holidays to all, and looking forward to hearing from you,

*Lisa M. Denison*

Multifaith Center, Inc. Clerk/Compliance Officer  
Brookville Church Elder



## Festival of Lights

(continued from page 2)

There was only enough oil to burn for one day, yet miraculously, it burned for eight days, the time needed to prepare a fresh supply of oil for the menorah. An eight day festival was declared to commemorate this miracle, the miracle of the oil. The modern home celebration of Hanukkah centers around the lighting of the chanukiyah, a special menorah for Hanukkah; foods prepared in oil including latkes (potato pancakes) and sufganiyot (jelly donuts); and special songs and games.

It is customary to play dreidel games on the holiday of Hanukkah. A dreidel is a pointed, four-sided top bearing four Hebrew letters: nun, gimmel, hey, and shin, which stand for the first letter of each word in the Hebrew statement "Neis gadol hayah sham," which means "A great miracle happened there" and refers to the re-dedication of the Temple. The only traditional gift of the holiday is "gelt," small amounts of money.

Hanukkah is the only Jewish holiday not found in the Bible and the only one rooted in a military campaign.

And yet its focus is almost entirely spiritual, not physical. For example, there is no feast associated with Hanukkah, the way there is with Passover and

Purim, the two other Jewish festivals of deliverance that are found in the Bible. Its religious observance is concentrated on flame, nothing more. And the menorah's lights may only be gazed at; it is forbidden to use them for any physical purpose—not even to read by.

What Hanukkah commemorates at heart is the Jewish yearning for God, for the concentrated holiness of the Temple and its service. The defeat of the Syrian- Greeks was a wonder, but the spiritual climax of the Maccabees' rebellion occurred when the menorah was rekindled and God's presence among his people could be felt once again.

The Maccabees' war against the Hellenists was ultimately a war against a worldview that elevated the physical above all, that worshipped beauty, not holiness; the body, not the soul. The Jews fought to preserve a different view of the world—one with God, not the material, at its center. Because they triumphed, the Jewish religion survived. More than 2,000 years later, the Hellenists and their gods are buried in the dust of history. But the wisdom and insights of Judaism continue to enlighten the world.

Chag Hanukkah Sameach – Happy Hanukkah!

*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:  
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](mailto: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](mailto:NewSynagogue.LI@gmail.com) ~ [www.newsynagogue-li.org](http://www.newsynagogue-li.org)**

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

## What Muslims Believe About Nativity

(continued from page 2)

Jesus being described as a *Word from Him* is understood to mean that Jesus was a means by which God's Word became manifest in the world.

When it says he was one of those brought nigh, it means he was one of those closest to God.

Muslims don't believe that Jesus was God, but a messenger from God like Noah, Abraham, Moses and Mohammad, sent by God to guide mankind.

Sunni Muslims do not make images of holy persons, but



Mary and Baby Jesus- an Iranian painting

Shia Muslims do. This image is an Iranian painting of Mary with baby Jesus.

Mary ( *Maryam* in Arabic), the mother of Jesus ( *Isa* in Arabic), has an especially exalted place in Islam. She is the only woman named in the Quran and her name appears fifteen times. The angel addresses her as follows during the annunciation in surah 3, verses 42-43:

*O Mary, God has chosen thee and purified thee; He has chosen thee above all the women of creation. O Mary! Be devoutly obedient to thy Lord, prostrate, and bow with those who bow.*

The nineteenth surah of the Quran, titled "Mary" (Surah Maryam), is named after her.

~ Dr. Sultan Abdulhameed

# 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"

BECAUSE IT TAKES MORE THAN FOOD TO FEED THE HUNGRY



## New Food Distribution site in Nassau County

**Long Island Cares** ([licares.org](http://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)

**Support  
Brookville Reformed Church  
by shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)**



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



[Roomforall.com](http://Roomforall.com)

## Christmas 2020

Join Brookville Church on **December 24**

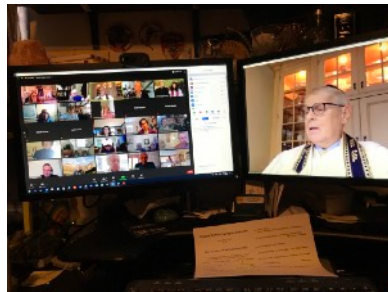
**6:00 p.m** for our virtual Family Christmas Eve Worship  
and

**8:00 p.m.** as we gather in person around  
the Peace Pole with candles  
while we listen to Silent Night and other Christmas songs  
being sung by young soloists from our congregation.



## Reflections on our Multifaith Thanksgiving Celebration

November 15 was our 7th **Multifaith Thanksgiving Celebration**, but the first one we have done virtually. Going “virtual” afforded us the chance to reach a wider audience! People joined us from many places near and far. Here are just a few: Argentina, London, Wisconsin, Michigan, Missouri and Texas!



Read some of the responses from those in attendance:

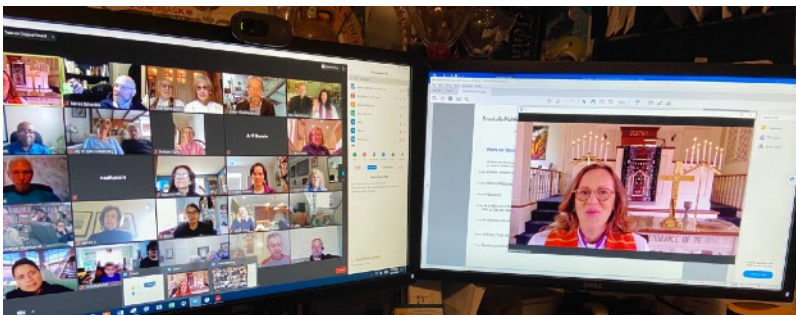
This was absolutely spectacular! It was just a fabulous, fabulous celebration for the multifaith campus. People said this was the best Multifaith Thanksgiving Celebration we have held thus far!  
*Rabbi Paris and Rev. Enid*

Words of wisdom & grace from all participants. Not to mention love & gratitude. Feeling so grateful for our wonderful multicultural community.  
*Love, Barbara Reiter*

Thank you for a beautiful and most uplifting Thanksgiving service. Bob also participated and he was truly touched with emotion.  
*Love, Lorrie and Bob Lazten*

What a wonderful, worshipful expression of thanksgiving by a unique multifaith organization. I am thankful that out of the turmoil of Covid-19 a beautiful celebration of Thanksgiving has emerged. Praise God for His plan that started years ago and grows better each year. I say that the virtual service has shown us we can celebrate our personal faith and multiple faiths in a meaningful way. The obvious planning, preparation and work done to succeed so well, deserves the highest commendation.  
*Branch Worsham*

Absolutely beautiful service!!! Great stuff is happening in our corner of the world!  
*Amy Schombs*



I wanted to thank you so much for putting together such a beautiful Thanksgiving service. It's always nice to be reminded that no matter what your religion we all worship one God, and the similarities are amazing in the different religions. [Cantor] Irene's singing brought me to tears, it was so beautiful. ❤️❤️ *Pat Tucker*

## Together, even at a social distance

(continued from page 2.....)

Prior to covid/quarantine/shut down, our adult gatherings, affectionately called “coffee and conversation” had started to focus on reflecting upon Susan Katz Miller’s book “Interfaith Family Journal”.



On Friday night, November 13th, IFC parents gathered via zoom for our first adult gathering this school year! This gathering had many benefits: first, we got to “see” each other (virtually). Second, we had an opportunity to reflect on the two children’s classes that had been held so far. Lastly, we had the opportunity to reflect on another chapter in the “Interfaith Family Journal”. We shared artifacts and/or artwork that we had in our home that had a special meaning for us. We shared special photo frames, rosary beads, seder plates, and Bar Mitzvah mementos. It was a fun, adult “show and tell”! We are looking forward to the next adult gathering!

### Mark your calendars!

**Wonder Box Lesson, Sunday, December 6 at 10 am**

**Children’s class, Sunday, December 13 at 11:00 am**

Please stay tuned! Emails will be sent with more information about future adult gatherings and other events. If you would like to be added to our email distribution list, please email [amy@interfaithli.org](mailto:amy@interfaithli.org).

Also, check us out on Facebook at the Interfaith Community of Long Island and our website:



Art work donated  
by Chris Fahey

# BRAG BOX

Tom Field and Hank Surig are an Elder/Deacon team who have devoted countless hours to helping with repairs and upkeep at Brookville Church. Some of the most recent accomplishments have been overseeing a huge pipe leak repair, installing temporary supports under the church office and installing a drain pipe out to the road. We want to thank these two dedicated members of the Brookville Church Consistory (Board) who have volunteered time and money to help maintain our property.



## The Next Chapter



*Branch Worsham*

Nearly everyone has ridden in a train, especially on Long Island, but let's skip the commuter trains today as their journeys do not go to exciting distant places. The phrase cross country train has always deceived us; no thru train goes more than halfway across our

country. Anything rolling out of Eastern USA ends in the vicinity of the Mississippi where passengers must switch to a selection of routes heading westerly towards the Rockies and the Pacific coast. Canada has one east-west route and they do have a couple of 'named' trains that go from Quebec City, through Montreal, Toronto, and then on to Vancouver. That's about two-thirds of the width of North America. Nancy and I recently read an excellent mystery book that was about a trip across Canada and for this writing that was the switch that turned on this Next Chapter.

When I was younger the Western movies often had trains somewhere as part of the plot or, as with the horses, a primary means of transportation. We kids all went to the 25 cents Saturday afternoon Western movies with a couple of cartoons added in; they were a staple of growing up in the forties and fifties.

The early trains across our country were nation builders with some freight, but mostly people traveling in both directions. The discomfort of the ride is hard to imagine, but it was the start of an amazing people moving national adventure.

When I was sixteen our family took a Christmas trip to the Oregon Coast on the Great Northern train (coach seats overnight) which had a Vista Dome; the train ride was an awesome razmataz of scenery, fatigue, and wonder. I still have vivid memories of that trip. I encountered the Vista Dome many years later when we rode on the Alaska Railroad to Fairbanks with an overnight stop at Denali National Park.

As I was writing this, the reality of the logistics involved struck me. All of the Vista Dome cars had to be put on freight ships in Seattle then sail North past Canada to Alaska's Kenai Peninsula where the railroad started in Seward.

One of the features of the best trains is the stopping and starting at the station, smooth, inconspicuous, silent departures and arrivals subtly done. Passengers, conductors and porters all stand and walk about without swaying or stumbling. How often do the LIRR passengers and conductors have to grab or lean on a seat back because of the lurching cars?

Not everyone has ridden on a passenger ship, or, more likely now, a cruise ship. The cruise vacation industry is determined to fix that in the coming years with more and more ships. So many they have to scramble schedules to get berths at the docks in order to load and unload their passengers. Just consider how they leave from or arrive at a port. So smooth -- like on silk. It is possible that either a boat or a train might match the weight and bulk of the other and for obvious safety they must announce their movements, with horns, loudly, both for purpose and show. The trains hoot and the ships toot.

Switching to a new venue I want to tell you about an imagined Caribbean trip I take three or four times a week to a diverse list of locations. I had been seeing them for quite a while enjoying their names and their charming homes, and each day remembering what I knew about the places. I start my nearly daily walks in front of our New Jersey house on a street known as Jamaica Blvd, Ah, Jamaica, what a place to visit and it is familiar to nearly everyone on Long Island. But this trip has just started.

Continued on pg. 13

### The Next Chapter (continued from pg 12)

Walking northerly for 0.4 mile we turn left on Bananier Drive and as we pace off the next distance, 0.6 mile I think of the little village of Bananier in Haiti with its banana trees. Along the way, the route crosses several other Caribbean reminders, Castries on St Lucia, Bassatere the capital of St. Kitts, Barbados the easternmost Caribbean Island and Tortola, British Virgin Islands, a fabulous setting off place for family size cruising sailboats.



Turning left at the halfway mark, the corner of Port Royal Drive, I remember that the Spanish selected this prominent point in 1494, two years after Columbus sailed into the Caribbean and 122 years before Plymouth Rock became historic. Port Royal, Jamaica was, for quite a long time, the largest city in the Caribbean

Islands. Walking easterly with the wind usually on my back in about 0.6 mile we arrive at Charlottesville Drive, not Charlottesville (with the s). In 1633 The Dutch sailed to the island of Tobago and founded Charlotteville, 99 years before some other Dutchmen formed the Brookville Church.

According to the earliest English-language source, Tobago bore the name that has become the English word *tobacco*. Turning right and going 0.4 mile south we bump into Jamaica Blvd again and a right turn makes it only a block back to our front door. Thank you for

joining me on my favorite two mile walk. I assure you that having these island memories makes the walk enjoyable and seem shorter.

~ Branch Worsham

BEAT NAVY

## Poinsettia Challenge

Help decorate our worship space (a.k.a our homes) for Christmas!

- Order **poinsettias** for your home and pick them up at church on **Sat. December 19**
- 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)



Email the church at [brookvillechurch@gmail.com](mailto:brookvillechurch@gmail.com) by **Dec. 11** with your name, phone # and how many **red poinsettias** you want.

You can pay by **Venmo** @Brookville-Church or mail a check to the church, marked "**poinsettias**"

If you want a plant in honor or memory of someone, please list their names. We will include them in the January newsletter.

Each plant costs **\$20.00**

