

# Brookville Multifaith Campus



*Where our doors and  
hearts are always open!*

## NEWS

September  
2020

2 Brookville Road, Glen Head, NY 11545

Facebook: [Brookville-Church-Multifaith-Campus](https://www.facebook.com/Brookville-Church-Multifaith-Campus)

[www.brookvillemultifaithcampus.org](http://www.brookvillemultifaithcampus.org)

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#### **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.

#### **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.



## Blessings In Our Midst

During our virtual Sunday Worship Celebration on August 23rd, we shared stories of the “God Sightings” we have encountered over these last six months of living through a pandemic. We recognized that good comes from

all circumstances even if we have to look deep to find them. Many shared that extra time spent with family and doing things we enjoy were blessings. My mom said that it has been a blessing to be able to attend worship at our church all the way from Missouri because we have been holding the services on Zoom.

Our church and multifaith campus has also received blessings as a result of our campus being closed over these last six months. Our three faith communities: Brookville Church, The New Synagogue of Long Island and the Muslim Reform Movement Organization have all seen an increase in attendance during our virtual services and study groups. A new online Bible Study has emerged that has afforded people from out of state to join in and has gathered participants from nine different faith communities!

This time of not meeting on our campus has given us the chance to do some improvements to the buildings we couldn't do when they were bustling with people. Our groundskeeper Rigo, has used this time to paint the trim, ceiling and walk in closet in fellowship hall. He has sprayed mold killer in the basement under the sanctuary where black mold had grown on the sheetrock, washed the basement floor and removed all the cobwebs.

At a time when other faith communities are struggling with being on the same page about re-opening plans, our church board as well as the faith leaders of our campus, have all decided to continue holding our services and programs virtually, to insure the continued safety of our members and attendees. This brings the blessing

of drawing people who are geographically unable to be with us in person, thus broadening our outreach and ability to meet the spiritual needs of those who live out of the area.

So, for the foreseeable future, we will continue holding worship and study groups online. The church board will be revisiting a re-opening plan in December. This affords continued mold remediation to be done in the basement of the sanctuary as Rigo prepares to paint the walls with a mold resistant paint.

When pandemic fatigue sets in, as it surely has and will continue for most of us, let us watch for “God Sightings” in our midst; places where God shows up with blessings.

~ Rev. Vicky



*The building may be closed ... but the church is open because the church is the people not the building!*

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 September. Email: [BrookvilleChurch@gmail.com](mailto:BrookvilleChurch@gmail.com) for the link.

### 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.



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

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

### WAYS TO SUPPORT BROOKVILLE CHURCH

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



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

### VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY



#### ALL ARE WELCOME

Mondays, Sept. 14 and 21 at 6:30 PM. Email [brookvillechurch@gmail.com](mailto:brookvillechurch@gmail.com) for the link.



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

Create an account and choose what your donation will fund



You can now donate @**Brookville-Church** through Venmo.com or download the app



## The High Holy Days



The festival of *Rosh HaShanah* is observed on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the Hebrew month of *Tishrei* (this year corresponding to September 19<sup>th</sup>). In Hebrew, *Rosh HaShanah* means, literally, "Head of the Year," and, as its name indicates, it is the beginning of the new Jewish year, 5781. *Rosh HaShanah* is not just a

Jewish holiday. *Rosh HaShanah* is the birthday of humankind, the anniversary of the creation of Adam and Eve, highlighting the special relationship between God and humanity.

*Yom Kippur*, the holiest day of the Jewish year, is observed on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the Hebrew month of *Tishrei* (this year corresponding to September 28<sup>th</sup>). *Yom Kippur* commemorates the day when G-d forgave us for the sin of the Golden Calf. Forty days after hearing G-d say at Mount Sinai, "You shall not have the gods of others in My presence; you shall not make for yourself a graven image," we committed the sin of idolatry. Moses spent nearly three months on top of the mountain pleading with G-d for forgiveness, and on the tenth of *Tishrei* it was finally granted: "*Sawlahti*" ("I have pardoned, as you have requested.")

The period between *Rosh HaShanah* and *Yom Kippur* is called the Ten Days of Repentance, or in Hebrew the *Asseret Yimei Teshuva*. During this time Jews contemplate repentance and ask for forgiveness

from anyone we may have wronged. The Ten Days allow each person to mend his/her ways to balance the scale of good and bad deeds in life. One of the ongoing themes of the Ten Days is the concept that G-d has a "Book" that our names are written in, thus deciding our fate for the next year. "The Book" is opened on *Rosh HaShanah* and our actions during the Ten Days can alter G-d's decree. The actions that change the decree are "*teshuvah*, *tefilah* and *tzedakah*," repentance, prayer, and good deeds (usually, charity). "The Book" is sealed on *Yom Kippur* for another year.

Every holiday in the Jewish year has a certain spiritual energy and potential which is responsible for creating the holiday. Every year we travel through the cycle of holidays and come again to that same point in time, and to that same event which happened on this date with its spirit and potential intact. In the beginning, before we were here, creation could be in only one direction. G-d spoke, and the world came to be. When we were created, G-d said, "Let us create man/woman in our own image." And from that day forward, our Divine mission is to be co-creators with G-d in the continuing act of creation. Every year, that act of creation replays on the awesome day of *Rosh HaShanah*, when our fate stands in the balance as G-d reviews our past year and decides whether or not to renew our lease on His planet.

*Yom Kippur* is the one day of the year when we can tap into the deepest level of our soul, which is to be truly one with G-d. Our connection with G-d is like the bond between parent and child - so deep, so essential, that it can never be severed. On *Yom Kippur*, G-d looks at us and sees part of Himself, the pure soul that can never, ever be damaged or blemished. In the face of such a strong revelation of our essence, not only are we forgiven for any negative thoughts, words, or deeds, but also we are given the chance to start anew with a fresh clean slate as "The Book" is sealed.

Every *Rosh HaShanah* we enter that event of pre-creation once again, that time before all time began. We do not exist in the past at all since there is no past on this day. We are expected

on this day to conceive of a plan to engage in a vision of the future, to have ambition and desire, to take an active part in G-d's supreme kingdom in the coming year as G-d's partner. We can remove ourselves from our past limitations and reach for the stars. We are new beings involved in a new and ambitious plan for reaching our ultimate destiny.

We have "chosen life" and have, in fact, signed ourselves into the "Book" for the coming year.

~ 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**  
**September 4, 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](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 ~ [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: \_\_\_\_\_



ב"ה

## HIGH HOLIDAYS 5781

### The New Synagogue of Long Island The Synagogue for Spiritual Judaism

Warmly invites you to join  
Rabbi Stuart Paris, Hakohen, Rabbi Scott Matous, and Cantor Irene Failenbogen  
in celebrating the New Year Season

#### Virtual High Holiday Services

##### Rosh HaShanah

Friday Evening, September 18<sup>th</sup>: 7:00pm  
Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>: 10am to 12noon

##### Yom Kippur Eve - Kol Nidre

Sunday Evening, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm

##### Yom Kippur Day

Service – Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup>: 10am to 12noon  
Yizkor Service: 12pm  
Concluding Service: 5pm

##### Synagogue of the Month Shabbat Services

Virtual Shabbat Service at 7:00pm

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

##### Please respond as soon as possible.

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 in celebrating the High Holidays this year.  
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: \_\_\_\_\_

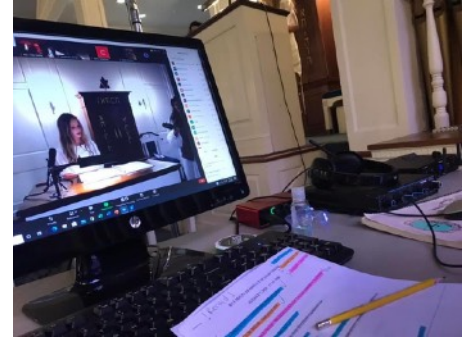


## Leah Cirker's Bat Mitzvah

August 7, 2020

The first of it's kind...  
a virtual service  
with only immediate family  
and clergy in attendance  
while others Zoomed in from  
various states.

*Mazel Tov, Leah!*



Rabbi Paris  
zoomed in  
using his  
phone after  
the tropical  
storm  
knocked out  
his electricity.



## BRAG BOX

Congratulations  
to Ian Schombs,  
the new  
co-principle  
trombonist for  
the SUNY  
Fredonia's Wind  
Symphony!



Congratulations  
to Logan  
Racey who  
earned his  
Bachelor of  
Arts in History  
from SUNY  
Purchase in  
just 3 years!



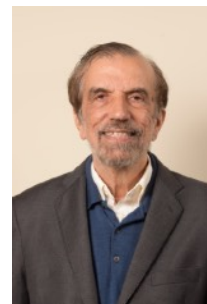
## *Socially Distanced Muslim Blessing/Baptism*

It is with great joy that we congratulate Stuart and Subrina Brown on the Muslim Blessing and Baptism for their daughter, **Mia Julianna Brown** on Saturday, August 15, 2020. Brookville Church is proud to welcome Mia to the visible membership of the church universal!



Family gathered at a safe distance on the lawn, while others Zoomed in to witness this special occasion for Mia.

Dr. Sultan Abdulhameed began the service via Zoom with the Muslim Call To Prayer (the Adhan), recited in Arabic; along with sharing meaningful passages from the Quran and words of Muslim blessings for Mia.



Rev. Vicky performed the sacrament of Baptism. Constantine and Valerie Possas, Mia's godparents, made the vow to love, support, and encourage Mia throughout her life, by being an example of faith and character, praying for her and being there for her in times of need.

Family was able to join in via Zoom from as far as Jamaica, which is one of the blessings that has come from the opportunities this pandemic has afforded us.







## IFC - LI 3.0 is coming this fall!

*By Christine Mankes*

Hello IFC-LI families! We miss you all and we miss our time together on our multifaith campus! We are excited to let you know that we have

a creative and hard working committee looking at ways to make our 2020-2021 year robust, vibrant, meaningful, comforting and safe! We are excited about the possibilities that this new school year at the Interfaith Community of Long Island has presented to us.

***"The IFC is a place of comfort."*** - Bill McBride

### **IFC is a place for our children to find comfort**

Our teachers are ready and enthusiastic about the new school year! The committee is looking into the feasibility of remote classes verses in person classes. One idea for remote learning includes a flipped classroom concept - the children would receive a video clip or activity prior to their Sunday morning lesson. The clip or activity would help engage and prepare the kids for their lesson. Another idea for remote learning includes having the children grouped together in separate classes according to their age. Trying to keep all of our options open, the committee also brainstormed some possible in person options in the future, keeping the safety of our families as a priority. One idea is to use outdoor spaces on our beautiful campus and bringing our own chairs for the presentation of lessons. This will be discussed further as we continue to monitor local and



state events and stay apprised of regulations put forth by the CDC and the Department of Health.

### **IFC is a place for parents to find comfort**

The face-to-face interaction with parents is definitely missed by all. Prior to quarantine, parents had been meeting collaboratively to discuss issues that affect us as interfaith families. Rev. Vicky, Rev. Kessler and others had served as facilitators of thoughtful and engaging conversations that affected us all. Parents had also begun an interactive activity from the workbook "The Interfaith Family Journal" by Sue Katz Miller. Delving into our religious traditions growing up, not only did we have the opportunity to share in our "safe space" but also reflect on decisions that we had made (and will make) for our families. The "coffee and conversation" piece that accompanied these meetings are greatly missed. The committee is working to devise online interactions that will be more social in nature where we can just hang out and have fun with each other via zoom!

**Please stay tuned! Emails will be sent with more information.**

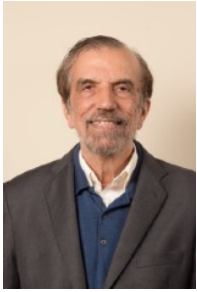
**If you would like to be added to our email distribution list, please email [amy@interfaithli.org](mailto:amy@interfaithli.org)**

**Check our Facebook page for up to date information: [www.facebook.com/ifcli](https://www.facebook.com/ifcli)**

**Visit our website at [www.interfaithli.org](http://www.interfaithli.org)**

### **IFC is a place for families to find comfort**

Many face-to-face family events have been missed these last few months, but most recently, our End-of-Year BBQ on the front lawn. Although we have been able to remain connected via zoom, we are looking into how to coordinate future family events such as the Multifaith Thanksgiving Celebration, All Saints Day and Service Projects.



## Constancy in Prayer

A human weakness mentioned several times in the Quran is that when people have trouble, they pray earnestly, but when the trouble is gone and they are feeling good, they forget about God. Let us consider Sura 10 Aya 12:

*For [thus it is:] when affliction befalls man, he cries out unto God, whether he be lying on his side or sitting or standing; but as soon as God frees him of his affliction, he goes on as though he had never invoked God to save him from the affliction that befell him! Thus do their own doings seem goodly unto those who waste their own selves.*

A similar statement occurs at seven other places in the Quran.

We can see this every day. When people run into trouble, they turn to prayer. They appeal to God sincerely and earnestly. They have no difficulty in believing that God can help them. This can be seen when someone has a serious accident, or on an airplane when it is caught in turbulent air, in a family where there is serious illness, when someone has suffered a major loss of income, or where a child is a source of trouble in a family. But it is also commonly seen that people lose interest in prayer when their problem is resolved and they come into a happy condition, not knowing that their life would be so much better if they recognized that God is always present. It will help them if they

cement their relationship with God when life is pleasant.

A person's relationship with God can be likened to a rope. Every time you think of God and call upon Him in a sincere manner, you add a strand to it. If you make it a practice to pray regularly, the rope keeps getting stronger, and eventually, you can feel it; it becomes a perceptible source of support for you in good times and bad. You can easily grasp it because it is always there. You no longer feel alone or feeble. But if you do not remember God for a long time, the strands unravel, one by one, and we no longer see the rope of God. So when bad times come again, we feel we are without support and fall into despair.

The way people pray when they are in trouble is very instructive. You can see the sincerity, the earnestness, and the emotion in the prayer. People pray as they are sitting in a waiting room, standing in line or in a hospital bed. People pray when they are driving or cooking and when they wake up in the night. They do not need any special rituals or preparations for prayer. The need is urgent, and the heart cries out for help. Your mind does not wander and concentration is easy. These are the attitudes that make prayer effective.

One of the many benefits of hardship is that it teaches us how to pray, so we can continue with it later when the trouble is removed from us.

~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"



# Join us for our virtual *Blessing of the Animals!*



**Sunday, October 4, 2020**

10:00 AM Service via Zoom  
for the link email  
[brookvillemfc@gmail.com](mailto:brookvillemfc@gmail.com)

Join us from the comfort of your own home  
by bringing your pet to the computer screen  
to be blessed



**DONATIONS WILL ALSO BE ACCEPTED FOR A  
LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTER.**

Suggested Items: dog and cat food (both wet and dry needed), cat litter, litter boxes and feeding bowls can be dropped off at Brookville Multifaith Campus in our Fellowship Hall starting September 1st



**Interfaith Community  
of Long Island  
Drive Through Open House  
Sunday Sept. 27 (time TBD)**

**PAY YOUR REGISTRATION  
PICK UP A STUDENT PACKET**

**MAKE A POSTER TO SHOW YOUR IFC TEACHERS AND  
CLERGY HOW MUCH YOU MISS THEM!**

## The Next Chapter



August 30 was the twentieth live ZOOM Sunday Worship Celebration (plus two before Easter that were prerecorded). Brookville Church has used ZOOM as a means to continue holding a worship service with real connectivity for its members.

Not much change seems to be

happening in future Covid-19 opening requirements and by Labor Day we will have passed the twenty-fourth Sunday of Zoom worship and be into the seventh month of no live church services in the sanctuary. Who'da thunk it?

ZOOM, on the Internet has created an opportunity for continuity and connection of not just our Protestant church members but also the Muslim and Jewish groups. There have been some positive changes that happened during this pandemic time; both The New Synagogue of L.I. and the Muslim Reformed Movement Organization have increased their programs. Those changes were especially exciting to me. When I visited the earlier Shabbat services I felt that they were such a vibrant group, it was unfortunate they met only once a month. It seemed to me the real feeling was one of deep spiritual appreciation to be there and having their own place to worship. Now they meet twice a month. The Quran study has been going on for over eighteen years and when I first started attending their meetings it was amazing that the participants would spend two hours together in the Fellowship Hall or at a distance from their homes listening and talking to a telephone device which was broadcasting the meeting to their phones. They have had years of half a helping of what ZOOM now brings them - *sight and sound*. I first felt that our Muslim community had a cohesion that defied the challenges against their success, but I wondered how would they ever grow? Now, with ZOOM, they meet every Sunday afternoon. God does work in ways that amaze me, ways that are often unintended, unexpected, but just what God's people wanted.

For several years our Multifaith Campus was struggling to actually become a legal entity, one that would be able to enjoy more privileges than before. In the beginning, the unintended camaraderie of the three

faith groups was just a dream for the future, not on the front burner. Now our Multifaith Campus has been providing opportunities to share events together, events that are uncommon throughout the nation, celebrations of our shared Abrahamic connection. Now, during this difficult pandemic, when it was most unlikely, our Multifaith Campus has gained legal non-profit status. Who'da thunk it?

We all look forward to normalcy, times like before, but most thoughtful people say that we are in a transition and 'normal' will be something new when it does come. I accept that. I often think back to 1732 and how our Dutch Reformed Church started. Nine farmers and their families, people who traveled on horses and in wagons, but wanted to be together and fulfill their desire to worship their God. They wanted a church so life would be 'normal'. For nearly 290 years, while science and technology continually changed the world of the church in Wolver Hollow was pretty much the stable normal they wanted and any changes were minimal. Today our Multifaith Campus is *beyond* normal. I believe it will continue to grow, changing the unity of our groups in unimaginable ways while worshiping and praising a God that leads us and controls our collective destiny.

~ Branch Worsham

### BEAT NAVY!

*In June, 1954 I walked onto the revered fields and into the hallowed stone buildings at West Point. During the first days' orientations, we learned that our primary sports foe was the US Naval Academy and our motto was, from that day forward, BEAT NAVY. Beat them in all sports and academic competition, but especially in the fall on the football field. During this Covid-19 troubled time, sports teams may or may not have a normal season, but West Point feels that making officers and leaders requires training, commitment, and rigorous competition, so its teams will compete against someone. The schedules have had to be revised with new competitors, except for the Naval Academy. The last game of every sport this fall will still be against the Midshipmen. I have written the Beat Navy motto on every monthly Newsletter issue for nearly thirty years and will keep that hope as long as I write the Next Chapter.*