It was about 10 years ago now, that I first started practicing Yoga. The yoga instructor would take out her harmonium (a keyboard instrument where the notes are produced by air driven through metal reeds) and begin chanting. We were to follow along. This is how she began and ended every class. I had never seen this instrument before, nor had I ever practiced chanting. Often we would end with Om, Shanti, Shanti, Shanti, Om. It was an old Sanskrit way of saying: peace, peace to the world.

This practice began to have a profound affect on me. I initiated a conversation one day with my husband, who had practiced Hinduism before we met. I asked him what the literal translation of the word Om meant. He said it doesn’t have a translation, except that it is the universal word for life or breath or the cosmic vibration.

I spent a few weeks contemplating this untranslatable word, Om. One day I shared a correlation I made with a friend. If God spoke the universe into existence, as it says in Genesis, then maybe the word Om is the cosmic vibration of God’s voice reverberating throughout the universe; maybe that vibration is still out there, still creating new life, maybe it was set in perpetual motion and there is no end to God’s vibration of creation.

Over the years, scientists have unsettled theological convention, many times with their research being at odds with customary creation accounts. That is what makes the big bang theory so interesting: it brings the strands of science and faith back into conversation with one another, with fascinating implications for both.

The big bang theory argues that once the universe did not exist. Then at a particular moment in time everything that now exists came into being as a single bang of dense and hot matter. Only seconds after this bang appeared, it began to expand, sending forth tiny bits of matter; as the particles and dust cooled, they formed clouds of gases that eventually coalesced into larger bodies, creating the stars, galaxies, planets and moons.

Could this have been the breath of God, the Om vibration? I wonder…

~ excerpts from sermon preached on 3-27-2016

~ Rev. Vicky
Give to **Brookville Church** using your **Apple** or **Android** products! It’s easy. First, download QR Code Reader to use the scan code to the right or go into the App Store and search “online giving.” Next, download the “**Online Giving: Our Sunday Visitor**” app. Once you open the app, click “Register,” then enter our organization ID: 1787, then hit search, which will bring you to the Brookville Reformed Church account. Click on the church name, and it will take you to a register page. Once you’ve set up your account, click “Register” and you’re ready to go!

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**Brookville Church Received a Donation from Amazon Smile!**

Yes, this really works! Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to Brookville Church every time you shop. This time our donation was small, but we can grow that number with your participation. It’s easy, and if you already shop on Amazon, follow the steps below to donate to Brookville Church!

**Ready? Here’s how it works:** To shop at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com). Simply log in to Amazon as you normally would. In the search box in the lower right, type Brookville Church. From the list that appears, pick our Brookville, NY location. At the top of the Amazon page you will see: Supporting: Brookville Church. Shop as normal, and 0.5% of your eligible purchases will be sent to Brookville Church at the end of every quarter. It’s that simple!

**Thanks to everyone who has already signed up to support our church!**

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**Women's Sankofa Journey!**

**Thursday, April 28 through Saturday, April 30, 2016**

Join us for our third annual journey through New York State as we retrace the steps of past women and sisters in faith!

We will visit the Women’s Rights Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls and the Harriet Tubman Homestead in Auburn. We’ll also explore several historic churches along the Hudson Valley that played the important role of empowering women in leadership from the 17th century through the present day.

Along the way we'll share our own stories, have meaningful conversations, build friendships and have a lot of fun!

**For more information or to sign up visit:** [https://www.rca.org/women/womens-sankofa-2016](https://www.rca.org/women/womens-sankofa-2016).
Thank You From
Carol Goglia, Minister of Music

What an amazing show of talent we had for our Holy Week Worship Celebrations. Cassie Johansen sang “Prepare Ye The Way of the Lord” for Palm Sunday. Lisa Denison sang a beautiful rendition of “Were You There” for Maundy Thursday. Our beyond talented choir gave the most beautiful concert on Good Friday. Thank you to Lisa Denison, Nancy Worsham, Fran Kaufmann, Nan Coffey, Pam Tobel, Jessie Surig, Michael Flanagan, B.J. Worsham, John Coffey and Mark Kaufmann for giving so generously of your time and talents. On Easter Sunday, we were a small, but forceful Choir. Thank you Lisa Denison, Nancy Worsham, Nan Coffey, Hal Davidson and B.J. Worsham for a great service. We are blessed with very talented singers. Thank you so much!

The Economic Opportunity Commission of Nassau County, Inc.

The low income community in our immediate area is constantly in need of assistance. If you would like to help, please contact:

Janice Wardlaw, Director
Glen Cove EOC
4 Mason Drive, Apt. BB (Lower Level)
Glen Cove, NY 11542
jwardlaw@eoc-nassau.org
Office Phone (516) 801-2672
Office Fax (516) 676-4958

The Saturday Night Live Group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets at the Brookville Church every Saturday night at 9pm. (Coffee and cake starting at 8:30!) As one of Nassau County's oldest AA groups, this meeting has been in existence for over 40 years. If you think you have a problem with alcohol, you are welcome to attend this meeting.

For more information, feel free to contact Carol B. at (516) 428-0479.

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2016 Classis Assessment

Dear Members of the Brookville Church Family,

For the past several years we have asked each member of the church to consider paying his or her share of the item in our budget called “Classis Assessment.”

What is the Classis Assessment?

The assessment is a per capita levy made annually, upon each church in the Reformed Church in America, which is used to carry out the administrative work of the denomination. This includes the administrative work of the General Synod, The Regional Synod of New York, and the Classis of Nassau/Suffolk.

The assessment is based on the figure that the church reports as “Active” members. The total assessment for our church this year is $5,866.85. The amount per church member is $106.67. If each of us pays this amount, it will be a big help toward meeting our own local budget. Please indicate the amount you would like to enclose for the confirmed members of your family. You can cut out the form below to mail in with your payment or return it to the Church office at your earliest convenience.

Checks should be made out to the Brookville Reformed Church.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Rev. Vicky L. Eastland, on behalf of the consistory.

Classis Assessment 2016

Please send to the Church Office at:
The Brookville Church
2 Brookville Road, Brookville, NY 11545

Enclosed please find $___________ to pay the Classis Assessment for the communicant members of our family listed below, at $106.67 each.

Signature: _____________________________________________

MEMBERS:
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________

Thank You From
Carol Goglia, Minister of Music

What an amazing show of talent we had for our Holy Week Worship Celebrations. Cassie Johansen sang “Prepare Ye The Way of the Lord” for Palm Sunday. Lisa Denison sang a beautiful rendition of “Were You There” for Maundy Thursday. Our beyond talented choir gave the most beautiful concert on Good Friday. Thank you to Lisa Denison, Nancy Worsham, Fran Kaufmann, Nan Coffey, Pam Tobel, Jessie Surig, Michael Flanagan, B.J. Worsham, John Coffey and Mark Kaufmann for giving so generously of your time and talents. On Easter Sunday, we were a small, but forceful Choir. Thank you Lisa Denison, Nancy Worsham, Nan Coffey, Hal Davidson and B.J. Worsham for a great service. We are blessed with very talented singers. Thank you so much!
Reflections

I have long believed that good food, good eating is all about risk. Whether we’re talking about unpasteurized Stilton, raw oysters or working for organized crime “associates,” food, for me, has always been an adventure. ~ Anthony Bourdain

There has been a lot of national conversation about diversity, and your political viewpoint will determine whether diversity in our country is good or bad. It seems to me that many opinions are pointed towards not adding to our diversity. “Look what is happening all around us!” is the cry of supposed proof. Today I was reminded of our diversity when I went out to get some potato chips for lunch.

In January I moved the business I manage to Copaigue on the South Shore from Deer Park in the middle of the Island. I went through the new village, still unfamiliar to me, and passed by the Polish Deli, the Polish Bakery, the European Grocery and the Travel Office specializing in trips to Poland. I was looking for a grocery store where I expected to get a fair price for a large bag of potato chips. Aha! An Associated grocery store with a decent (and empty) parking lot was familiar – there’s one on Old Country Road near us in Westbury that I go to often for fresh fish. When I got into the store, I decided to see what they had on the chock full shelves and on the meat counters. What a surprise I got. Nothing Polish, but nothing familiar to what I expected. There were cuts of meat that were different, and next to them were chickens – NO! These birds had long necks. Stopped cold, I looked closer and saw they were Guinea Fowl and nearby a little silhouette showed the bird with feathers. Sort of like a small turkey. I had never seen them for sale in all my years. There were even two varieties to choose from. This grocery, it turns out, caters to people from Central Africa. I found the potato chips, only two medium sized bags from Wise and Lays.

This little excursion caused me to consider how diverse Long Island is, even when measured unscientifically by comparing groceries. What do the selections and prices in Whole Foods, Fairway, and Trader Joe’s tell us? When I lived in Minnesota there were two grocery stores across the street from each other – the Red Owl Store and the Super Value Store. Both sold the same variety of things and there wasn’t any ethnicity in the selections. Most everyone there was Scandinavian, whose ancestors had arrived in the early 1900’s, and thirty years later were homogenized into Minnesotans (but you have to say it with an accent, Minnee SO tans). Now the town doesn’t have a single grocery store. Everyone has to drive fifteen miles to Brainerd (home of Paul Bunyan) where larger chain stores flourish.

When we travel to England and stay in time shares, we, of course, have to grocery shop. England is not a really large island, but it has just as much diversity in its food stores as Long Island. In certain areas the cheese is protected from competition with neighboring areas, so that by the rules Stilton, England cannot call their cheese Stilton. We delighted in the food selections England offered, but regretted that many of our favorites were not available here. That was true fifteen years ago but not so anymore. I was online a couple of days ago and found that Sticky Toffee Pudding can now be ordered from a British couple who came over and made selling that their livelihood. Same goes for the Melton-Mowbray Pork Pies and Devonshire Clotted Cream. Going back to England can be postponed for a while now. Now that’s a diversity that was undone. Our nation was once English to the bone. Half of New England has towns named after locations on the British Isles. The diversity in England was surely brought over here, but, it seems, that after our Revolution, people homogenized their food, and nobody faithfully kept the English food traditions.

When we travel down to the Delaware shore, grocery shopping is a real treat. Nowhere else can I find a pint glass jar filled with shucked oysters that are as fresh as if I was on the dock. Nancy doesn’t care for oysters, but it was her dad who, in 1959, gave me my first oyster, picked, opened and eaten raw on the beach in front of his cottage in Northport. Goodbye Minnesota! I’ve been hooked on oysters ever since.

End Word: Originally, I’d planned to write about something else, but two sources of necessary information did not come through. I shared my dismay with our church Administrative Assistant, Janice Leotti, who is the producer of this Newsletter. I asked her to wish me good words. Her reply is the best and only quote I will use. She replied: Wishing your words flow like the rivers! Thanks Janice, they did.

I PROPOSED ~ TO IDA ~ IDA REFUSED ~ IDA WON MY IDA ~ IF IDA USED

Burma-Shave
Passover (Pesach in Hebrew) is known as the “Holiday of Freedom,” commemorating the Jewish Exodus from Egypt following 210 years of slavery. The eight-day festival of Passover is celebrated in the early spring, from the 15th through the 22nd of the Hebrew month of Nissan, which usually falls sometime in March or April. (This year corresponding to April 22 – 30.) Passover is regarded as the “birth” of the Jewish nation, and its lessons of struggle and identity continue to form the basis of Jewish consciousness today.

The holiday begins with a Seder (which means “Order”), a festive meal, and is designed to give each person the experience of “going from slavery unto freedom.” We read from the Haggadah, the special book which tells the Exodus story and recounts the Ten Plagues. We eat foods which are symbolic of slavery: matzah as the bread of affliction, salt water as the tears of oppression, bitter herbs as the harshness of slavery. We recline in our chairs to express our freedom. The youngest child asks Four Questions. We recite the prayer of thanksgiving and praise and end the Seder with the hope of “Next Year in Jerusalem!” By following the rituals of Passover, we have the ability to relive and experience the true freedom that our ancestors gained.

Passover conveys four major concepts that enable us to lead successful and productive lives. They can be summarized in four words: memory, optimism, faith, and family.

Memory links our past to our future. It turns history into destiny. Learning to treasure it is the first step in our climb up the ladder of greatness.

Optimism opens all possibilities. The optimist believes that with God’s help, no difficulty is insurmountable. A tyrant like Pharaoh could be overthrown. A nation as powerful as Egypt could be defeated. Slaves could become freemen. The oppressed could break the shackles of their captivity. Anything is possible, if only we dare to dream.

Faith in a personal God gives us faith in ourselves, faith in our future and faith in our ability to help change ourselves and the world. There is a Divine master plan. Faith is just God's way of choosing to remain anonymous. Faith is our way of listening.

Family is central to Passover as we come together at the Seder to retell the story of slavery to freedom. Passover has also taught us that the way to heal the world is to begin with ourselves and with our own families. Children are our future. They are the ones who most require our attention. The home is where we first form our identities and discover our values. The highlight of Passover, the Seder, revolves around the children. The entire Haggadah is a response to the questions asked by the children. Passover requires the participation of the youth, and actually makes them the featured center of attention.

My hope and prayer, at this season of the year, is that each of us, regardless of the path we choose to the “One Truth,” remembers that we were slaves and now we are free, and that we bring this message to our children and our children’s children.

“If not now, when?”

Rabbi Hillel (Ethics of the Fathers, 1:14)

With my best wishes for a Happy Passover,

Rabbi Stuart Paris, HaKohen
Music News!

IT'S A CIRCUS!
The youth of the Brookville Church and the IFC will begin rehearsals for our June play. It’s called “The Prodigal Clown.” I cannot wait to get started. I’m so excited to announce that, so far, there are 20 young actors signed up. And there is ALWAYS room for more. I need actors, dancers, acrobats, sword swallowers, clowns, mimes, jugglers..... You get it. There are a lot of parts! If your children are interested, please get in touch with me ASAP!
Cgoglia@aol.com

It's going to be sooo much fun!

Carol Goglia

The New Synagogue of Long Island

Shabbat Service
Rabbi Stuart Paris, Hakohen
Cantor Irene Failenbogen
First Friday of Each Month at 7pm

All are welcome to attend.

LEAVE A BOOK
TAKE A BOOK
We have a lending library! Anyone who has read a book and would like to lend one is welcome to bring it to the bookshelf in the Fellowship Hall Conference Room. Hard cover and paper back books are welcome.

If you don’t have a book to lend, you can make a donation and purchase one.

Bring in a book and take one home!
Ecumenical Women's Ministry Book Club

Presented by a collection of Long Island churches committed to celebrating & inspiring women’s lives.

Hidden Inheritance:
Family Secrets, Memory, and Faith
by Heidi B. Neumark

Tuesday evenings:
April 12, 19, 26, May 3, 2016
6:30pm – 8:30pm
at
Church of our Savior, Lutheran
1901 Northern Road
Manhasset, NY 11030

In this compelling memoir, Heidi Neumark, a Lutheran pastor, learns that her father had Jewish roots and that some of her relatives, including her own grandfather, perished during the Holocaust.

Heidi’s search for the truth quickly becomes a spiritual journey. It causes profound ponderings on her thirty-year vocation as a Christian leader. It is a shocking revelation that her Jewish roots and successive family loss and trauma now suddenly and inherently connect her to the multi-ethnic, marginalized community she has been ministering to for three decades.

Hidden Inheritance takes the reader on a journey that seamlessly weaves personal narrative, social history, and biblical reflection to challenge readers to explore their own identity, vocation, and theology. Neumark boldly calls readers to explore the harsh places of the past, uncover the possible buried secrets, ask new questions, forge new understanding, and discover new hope for transformation that is only possible when what has been hidden is finally brought to light. Join us each week for meaningful discussion and personal reflection. Refreshments provided.

RSVP requested.
Email lesleymazzotta@gmail.com or call 917-623-4554.

COMMON GROUNDS
COFFEEHOUSE!
April 29th at 7:30pm

Our March 11 Coffeehouse starring Musika Shmuzika was incredibly successful, raising $750 to send children to Camp Warwick!

Thanks to Cathy O’Neill, Nan Coffey, Pam Tobol, Dee Gee Beasley, Carol Goglia, Valerie Ritacco and Jessie Surig for their generous donations of raffle items and food that helped make the evening a success. Thanks also to Ruth Coffey, who became our go-to raffle seller, and of course huge thanks to Muzika Shmuzika for sharing their talents with us.

Our next coffeehouse will be Friday, April 29 at 7:30pm in Fellowship Hall. Participating this time will be Mark Coffey, Guitarist, Danny Richard and friends, Vocalists, Linda Cirigliano, Vocalist, and me, accompanied by our own wonderful Carol Goglia. The music will be eclectic and exciting, so please join us!

This coffeehouse will be raising money for Center for Developmental Disabilities in Hicksville. The Center assists the developmentally disabled with daily living skills and participation in the community. This gives them the ability to learn social and/or job skills, in a safe, nurturing environment, while allowing their families time to work. The Center has been a great help to my family and to our autistic son Benjamin, so I hope you will join me in helping to support the valuable work they do for some of the most vulnerable people in our Long Island community.

As always we welcome help with this exciting event! If you are able to donate raffle items or your time and talent, you can call or text me at 516-695-1123 or email LMDenison24@Gmail.com

See you there!

Lisa Denison
April Birthdays

Ginny Lyon - 2nd
Matthew Flood - 2nd
Roberta Boccio - 4th
Justin Tawil - 10th
Adrian Emmanuel - 14th
Charles Mueller - 16th
Rachel Worsham - 16th
Samantha Melendez - 16th
Cara Schombs - 16th
Jacob Apat - 17th
Lillian Monteleone - 19th
Joni Howe - 21st
Matthew Gawley - 24th
Lila Racey - 30th

Ecumenical Women’s Ministry

Annual Women’s Dinner
Friday, April 8
at Reformed Church of Locust Valley

Join us at 6:00pm for hors d’oeuvres & shopping before our dinner!

Mingle with old friends, make some new friends. Be inspired by our speaker, Rita Zimmer, Founder and Executive Director of Housing+Solutions, a non-profit that provides housing and supportive services for women veterans and women who have been in the criminal justice system.

Tickets: $25 ~ Seniors: $20.00

For more information, tickets or to RSVP please contact
Ardis Mercer patchwoman53@aol.com
or call the Reformed Church of Locust Valley number: 516-676-6130

Rev. Justin Meyers is the Director of Education at the Al Amana Centre in the Middle East. The centre’s mission is to seek deep understanding and peace between Muslims and Christians. This work is significant to our church because of our relationship with the Muslim Reform Movement Organization www.mrmo.org which has met on our campus for over a decade. Our partnership with MRMO in working toward peace, friendship and unity across religions is linked with this global effort that is like-minded.

~ ~ ~

Remember to pray for our Partner in Peace and Education, Rev. Justin Meyers, his wife Stephanie and their sons, Collin and Gavin as they promote peace among religions in the Middle East.

Fourth Annual Youth Leadership Lab
Saturday, April 9, 8am - 4pm

This year, we’re focusing on the important topic of Tolerance and how we, as Christians, are called to deeper respect, cooperation and understanding of all people. We’ll head into NYC and spend the morning exploring the 9/11 Museum and Memorial, then enjoy lunch together to process our experience, share personal stories and determine concrete ways that we can make a difference in our community and world. Cost: $50 (museum admission, group tour and lunch). LIRR ticket not included.

Museum tickets are limited, so please RSVP today to guarantee your youth’s participation.
Contact Lesley Mazzotta: 917-623-4554, LesleyMazzotta@gmail.com
**TUESDAY NIGHT NEEDLES**

7:00pm - 8:30pm

Are you a knitter or crocheter? Have you always wanted to learn these ancient and useful skills? Come join us in Fellowship Hall!

Lisa Denison will teach either knit or crochet, or established knit and crochet artists can bring a project and enjoy some fellowship time with like-minded crafters!

**People wishing to learn to knit should bring:**
Size 8, short, wooden or bamboo knitting needles and one or two balls of worsted weight yarn in a light color.

**Those wishing to learn to crochet should bring:**
Size G/7 or H/8 plastic or metal crochet hook and worsted weight yarn in a light color.

Examples of worsted weight yarns are Lion Brand Wool-Ease (NOT BULKY), Patons Wool, or Vanna’s Choice (also by Lion Brand).

These can be found at any craft store like AC Moore or Michaels, as well as privately owned yarn and fiber stores such as KNIT in Roslyn or The Knitted Purl in Oyster Bay.

Anyone who wants to learn a specific skill should email Lisa at LMDenison24@gmail.com or they can call or text at 516-695-1123, so I can bring materials related to that skill.

_Hope to see you there!_

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**A Pilgrimage to Makkah**

*Lecture by Dr. Sultan Abdulhameed*  
*Wednesday, April 6, 2016 ~ 7:00 pm*  
*at Brookville Multifaith Campus*  
*Join us in Fellowship Hall*

**Hajj** is the annual pilgrimage to the Holy Mosque in Makkah, which was built by Prophet Abraham and his son Ishamel according to Muslim tradition. Hajj is a religious duty for Muslims that must be carried out at least once in their lifetime. The Hajj takes place at a particular time of the year. However, Muslims can go any time for the lesser pilgrimage, known as **Umra**.

Dr. Sultan Abdulhameed from Brookville Multifaith Campus went for Umra, visiting Makkah and Madina, with his family last December. In this lecture he will describe the historical and spiritual aspects of the Muslim pilgrimage and observations related to this visit.

Please join us for this informative and interesting event.  
Refreshments will be served after the meeting. *A $10.00 contribution is requested.*

**The MRMO (Muslim Reform Movement Organization) meets on April 3 & 17 at 2:30pm in Fellowship Hall to study the Quran. All are welcome to attend.**
The New Synagogue of Long Island
The Synagogue for Spiritual Judaism
Rabbi Stuart Paris, Hakohen
Cantor Irene Failenbogen
Rabbi Joseph H. Gelberman, Rabbi Emeritus

It is with tremendous joy that we invite you to join our

**Torah Completion by Writing a Letter and Celebration to Welcome the Torah**

**Sunday, May 15, 2016 ~ 7th Iyar, 5776**

**Brookville Church ~ 2 Brookville Road ~ Brookville, NY 11545**
(GPS Directions: 2 Brookville Road ~ Glen Head, NY 11545)

The Torah is Life. The Torah is Love. The Torah is Knowledge. The Torah is Joy.

The Torah has 304,805 letters in 5,845 verses in 248 columns all handwritten by a Sofer (Scribe) who must copy the text perfectly. No machines are involved.

A Sofer will be joining us to help in the writing of each individual letter. If you or your family would like to complete the Torah by participating in this wonderful mitzvah, please email The New Synagogue of Long Island (NewSynagogue.LI@gmail.com).

Donations are welcome, but not required.

Kindly mail your response to:
Rabbi Stuart Paris
263 Sparrow Drive
Manhasset, NY 11030
Email: NewSynagogue.LI@gmail.com
www.newsynagogue-li.org

Please write “TORAH FUND” on your check.

I/We would like to participate in the completion of the Torah by writing a letter.
Please order the times below with your first choice as 1.

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