



MENUCHA

Sacred Space - Purposeful Work

The Menucha Meander



THE FRIENDS OF MENUCHA FOUNDATION 7th ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER EXCEEDED ALL EXPECTATIONS

Joyce Malin, Board Steward

On Sunday, September 13, Menucha's Great Hall became an elegant dining destination as we celebrated our 7th Annual Fundraising Dinner with over 100 friends. Guests arrived dressed in their finest and were greeted by a cascading waterfall at the entrance to Wright Hall. Out on the back porch overlooking the expansive lawns, we enjoyed live music while we mingled with old friends and made new ones, and enjoyed delicious hors d'oeuvres created by Menucha's talented culinary staff. When the traditional Menucha dinner bell rang out, guests eagerly found their tables in the Great Hall to dine by candlelight. It was a feast to behold. "I'd put this up against any five-star restaurant," was just one of the complimentary comments heard during the dinner.

Guest Speaker Tom Mears, Chairman of The Holland, Inc., the parent company of the highly successful Burgerville restaurant chain, surpassed expectations. He humbly shared the successful outcomes of running a corporate business based on Christian values and a mission-led philosophy to "serve with love." This mission statement applies equally to their customers, employees and suppliers.

It is often said that a picture can speak a thousand words. Well, if you combine images of incredibly beautiful scenery from Menucha's 100-acre sanctuary with the testimonials of a diversity of Menucha's retreat guests sharing their love for Menucha, how many words would that be? Certainly far more than a thousand! The new video crafted by Executive Director Spencer Parks and professional videographer Bruce Lawson (who volunteered his time) truly brought to the forefront the value of "Still Waters in Turbulent Times," the theme of our event. The video shares the best that Menucha has to offer through the words of its guests spoken during their stay at Menucha. The impact of the video and the sincerity of the speakers left many viewers speechless, and even brought tears to some.

Perhaps comments from some in attendance can tell the story the best: "The guests at our table were so warm and welcoming." "The evening was filled with special touches from start to finish." "So much thought went into every detail." "The food and service were excellent." "I appreciated the comments by the guest speaker, Tom Mears." "I couldn't believe I won such a great door prize!" "It was a grand evening!"



And lest we forget that this was a fundraising event, we are sincerely appreciative of the generosity of those who attended the dinner as well as those that were unable to attend. As of the printing of this newsletter, we can report that over \$26,000 has been received. The monies raised will help keep Menucha's facilities in good repair and maintain the beauty of its surroundings.

The stewards of the Friends of Menucha Foundation are grateful to the Menucha staff and the many volunteers that made this special evening possible. A measure of success was the unusually high net benefits, made possible by the selfless contributions of our emcee, guest speaker, musicians, videographer, and volunteer servers. Yet it could not have been possible without the outpouring of support from our donors.

Remember, this is your Menucha to treasure and enjoy.



WHY I LIKE TO WORK HERE

Rev. Spencer Parks, Executive Director

My drive to work isn't a long drive. It's less than a quarter mile so there are times when the drive to my office turns into a walk to work. Either way, the moment I lock my front door my mind races ahead. I begin thinking about the tasks I've planned for the day, the people I need to contact, and all the other administrative stuff that goes along with being the director of Menucha.

I really enjoy my work so it's very easy to get caught up in the day's events even before I reach the office. It's so easy that I often don't remember driving down the entrance or walking down the exit. But, every once in a while something out of the ordinary will happen; a deer will be on the side of the road, I'll see an unusual flower, and then I'm shaken out of my reverie and I'm acutely aware that I'm entering Menucha. I like it when that happens. It not only reminds me that I need to pay attention to my surroundings, but it also reminds me how beautiful it is here.

It is easy to get caught up in the day to day stuff and become unmindful of what is around you. So I think it's good to be shaken up and reminded of the basics from time to time. I've had a lot of those moments recently. We decided to put together a video to show at our annual fundraising dinner. It was a chance to tell people about Menucha through the eyes of those who come here. I spent about four months interviewing people for this video. I collected almost three hours of wonderful stories, memories, and experiences. Simply put, it was amazing!

I didn't have to twist arms to get people to step forward to tell their stories. One after another was told of how special and spiritual a place Menucha is for people, of how they often sense something greater than themselves while they are here. People told me about life changing events that have happened here, of how they returned home profoundly affected by their experiences here. There were stories of healing, hope, joy, connectedness that would make your heart ache. At times, I found myself moved to tears as I hid behind the camera.

I've shared that video with the staff. It was affirming for us all to hear those stories and to see firsthand what Menucha means to people.

It was nice to see some concrete results for our work. Most of us don't see what we do here as just a job. We view it as a sort of ministry, a service to others. That's because most of us truly do love people and have, as part of who we are, a real desire to help and serve others. Menucha is a good place to work if you want to do that.



Menucha is also a good place to come if you want to experience that. If you want to get away from the routine of the every day, if you want to be shaken out of your own reverie, if you want to be surprised by the moment, then visit us. It's a good place to discover what is important in life. It's a good place to find out what really matters. We'll be sure to take good care of you when you visit.

(A very special thanks to Bruce Lawson, who produced such a fine video for our use.)



WISHING DOROTHY CANZLER A HAPPY RETIREMENT!

Dorothy began working at Menucha in April of 1977. She was hired for kitchen work, but in those days, when it was slow, employees would do whatever needed to be done. She washed dishes, made beds, painted buildings, answered phones and washed windows.



Over the years, she worked in every aspect of the kitchen, and served as the assistant to several supervisors before accepting the position of Food Service Manager in May 2000. Dorothy saw many young people come and go through the Menucha kitchen, and took great pride in seeing them learn and grow and become hard-working adults.

Dorothy retired on July 10th after 32 years at Menucha. We wish her every happiness as she fills her days with the people and activities she loves. With a newly remodeled kitchen, her family and her grandchildren Josh and Hannah, we are confident she will find plenty to keep her busy!



WELCOME TO OUR NEW FOOD SERVICE MANAGER

Becky Lindsay started on July 20 as our new Food Service Manager. You may recognize her name; she was our Assistant Food Service Manager from April 2006-January 2007.

Becky worked for Cherry Park Plaza Retirement Living Center as their Kitchen Manager for a year and a half before accepting a position as a Lead Banquet Cook at the downtown Portland Marriott on the waterfront. While there, she learned to prepare meals for banquets of up to 1000 people. When the

position at Menucha became available, Becky jumped at the opportunity to apply.

Becky lives in Troutdale with her husband Jason and has a daughter Cherie in college. Becky enjoys hiking, reading, walking her dogs, and all things related to food.

We are delighted to have Becky back as part of our staff, and hope you will get to meet her in the near future.

THE COOKTOP . . . A Favorite Recipe from the Menucha Kitchen. Enjoy!

CARROT SOUP WITH ORANGE AND TARRAGON—makes six 8-oz servings
This recipe was served at our annual fundraising dinner to rave reviews!

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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 tablespoon butter | 4 ounces potatoes, peeled, small dice |
| 1 pound carrots, small dice | ½ cup orange juice |
| 4 ounces onions, small dice | 2 tablespoons tarragon, fresh chopped |
| 5 cups vegetable (or chicken) stock | Salt and pepper to taste |



Heat the butter in a heavy pot over low heat. Add the carrots and onions. Sweat the vegetables until they are about half cooked. Do not let them brown.

Add the stock and potatoes. Bring to a boil. Reduce the heat and simmer until the vegetables are tender.

Puree the soup, using an immersion blender, food mill, food processor or blender. Return the soup to the pot and bring back to a simmer.

Add the orange juice and more stock if needed to thin the soup. Add the fresh tarragon and salt and pepper to taste.



MENUCHA PROGRAMS FOR 2010

Scott Crane, Program Director

2010 is coming! Menucha will celebrate its 60th year as a retreat and conference center in the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 2010. We plan to make this celebration last the whole year through, with original program tour offerings incorporating history and education, local flora and fauna, and family fun. We are pleased to offer the following snapshots for each of the upcoming programs for the first half of 2010. Won't you join us?

APRIL 18-20: SPRING RETREAT FOR WOMEN WITH CANCER Susan Hedlund, Director of Washington County Hospice and Palliative Care will be

facilitating this event, a deeply meaningful retreat for reflection and for drawing strength together for the journey ahead.

MAY 3-7: WAY-POINTS PROGRAM WILDFLOWERS AND WATERWALLS Participants will hike and explore some of the nearby trails and waterfalls along the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, seeking out the hidden wildflower treasures of this pristine area of natural beauty.

JUNE 11-13: MENUCHA MOUNTAIN DULCIMER FESTIVAL Participants will take part in workshops based on abilities from beginners to advanced as they experience music and harmony together on this old traditional musical instrument from Appalachia. Professional instructors will also give nightly concerts.

JUNE 14-18: WAY-POINTS PROGRAM - MAJESTIC COLUMBIA Guests will experience the grandeur of the Columbia River Gorge from one end to the other, learning about the history of the Gorge and the building of the "King of Roads" in the second decade of the 20th century, what is now known as the Historic Columbia River Highway. In addition, we'll visit intact sections of the original highway and tour the vineyard and fruit orchard country along the way.

JULY 3-5: WAY-POINTS PROGRAM - FOURTH OF JULY FROLIC FOR FAMILIES A sure and safe way to spend the holiday weekend with your family! Participants will engage in traditional crafts and community building games, join in on the Corbett Fourth of July Fun Festival on a Menucha float, and view a truly unique fireworks display on the night of the Fourth.

Each of these retreat opportunities will have online registration up and running by January 2010. Please check our website, www.menucha.org and click on Programs to find the one you'd like to attend. Also available by calling our office or online will be a printed registration-brochure if you wish to send a physical check to our office. We can be reached at 503-695-2243. If you have any questions about the upcoming retreats, please don't hesitate to call and speak with me.

JOE WHITTINGTON WINS 2nd ANNUAL MENUCHA CROQUET TOURNAMENT

The weather couldn't have been better for this year's tournament on July 18th. Nearly fifty competitors vied for the championship title, cheered on by a large crowd of spectators.

Music by bluegrass band *Ida Viper* filled the air as the qualifying rounds took place. A variety of fun door prizes were given away throughout the day by our enthusiastic emcee Melinda Thorsnes. Before the final rounds took place, players and spectators alike enjoyed lunch by the Menucha pool.



Congratulations to Joe Whittington, pictured on the right, with Friends of Menucha Foundation President Erich Merrill. Joe will return next year to defend his title, and we look forward to an even larger field of competitors to vie for the opportunity to add their name to our trophy in residence. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make the tournament a success. Mark your calendars: next year's tournament will be on July 17th!



GoodSearch

Every time you shop online at your favorite stores you could be saving money and earning a donation for Menucha.

The new GoodSearch toolbar, developed by GoodSearch and GoodShop, takes just a few seconds to download. More than 1,300 top stores including Apple, Best Buy, Gap, PetSmart, and Staples are pitching in and will donate a percentage of each sale to our organization.

There's no extra cost to you and you may even save money as the merchants are providing us thousands of money-saving coupons!

The GoodSearch toolbar also includes a search box which is powered by Yahoo. Each time you search the web, about a penny is donated to us; there's no easier way to help Menucha. Please spread the word!

Here's a link for more information about GoodSearch:

<http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/>



At long last Menucha has a golf cart, paid in part by funds that were donated in honor of Merritt and Carolyn McCall

when they retired from Menucha after 30 years of ministry.

Our vehicle seats six, and has a canopy for shade as well as protection from the rain. We look forward to making it available to our less mobile guests so their time with us might be more pleasant.

We put it to good use before and after our annual Fundraising Dinner as Ernie Yoder transported folks back and forth between the parking lot and Wright Hall.

Many thanks to David Bentley for helping to make the purchase of our "new" golf cart a reality!

THANKS FOR ALL THE HELP—WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!

We are extremely grateful to all the volunteers who made this year's Fundraising Dinner a success:

- Auction Chairwoman extraordinaire Joyce Malin
- Husband and wife Susan Hedlund (emcee) and John Walling (bass player)
- Ben Darwish (keyboardist)
- Portland First Presbyterian Church Handbell Choir - set up (Kristen Buhler, Daniel and Emily Burnett, Sandy Castles, Jack Hansen, John and Emily Jo Jensen, Linda Killen, Jon Stuber, Karen Ward and Amy Wood)
- Wine servers: Dick Malin, Diane Ponder and Ann Walsh



- Hors d'oeuvres servers: Suellen Bergdorf, John Leamy, and Scott Crane and Katie Long
- Greeter Cindy Wheeler
- Dinner servers: Erica Garvin, Jon Stuber and Judy Wilson
- Bruce Lawson - video editing and producing
- Door prize donors: Kathy Delumpa Allegri, Paul & Melissa Dailey, Jerry Grossnickle and Bruce Wakefield, John & Donna Leamy, Leamy Printing & Design, Nanita McIlhattan and Sarah van Haeften
- Kathy Taggart, Flat Creek Garden Center (plants and trees for waterfall)
- Rick Pentecost, Burns Feed Store (mums around waterfall)
- Eric and Casey Petrie - videotaping and photography



And last, but certainly not least: A huge thanks as well to the Menucha staff...much of your work was "behind the scenes." What a great team!



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You may join our mailing list or update the information we have for you by returning this form to us, or by contacting us:

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I would like to receive Menucha communications via:
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**PLANNED GIVING:
 SECURING MENUCHA'S FUTURE**

Remembering Menucha in your estate planning can have positive consequences for both Menucha and you. By setting up a Charitable Trust, you provide Menucha with a source of income in the future while guaranteeing yourself and/or your loved ones a steady income stream now. You may even avoid costly capital gain taxes. It's a wonderful way to support the mission of Menucha for years to come. We have excellent representatives who can speak with you and your financial planner to answer any questions you might have about planned giving or estate planning. Please call our office at 503-695-2243 for more details.

DONATE ONLINE

Now, it is easier than ever to support Menucha. You can donate using your credit card with our secure online form. Simply go to www.menucha.org and click on the "Donate" link. You may also print out a Donor Form and mail it to Menucha.

We are grateful for all gifts, large or small. Your gifts help us expand our program, improve our facility and reach out to groups and individuals from around the Pacific Northwest and beyond. Please contact our office if you would like to remember someone special with your gift. Thank for your continued support.