



MENUCHA
Sacred Space - Purposeful Work

The Menucha Meander

Menucha is an
ecumenical commu-
nity- based mission of
First Presbyterian
Church, Portland, OR

SPRING 2005

FRIENDS OF MENUCHA FOUNDATION

Dedicated to the financial support of Menucha

Work obligations, the demands of daily living, and hectic schedules all often keep us from concentrating on the truly important things in life. Menucha is a chance to return to what matters most. It offers guests "the gift of contentment" –the comfort of needs well met and the freedom to engage in purposeful work. In a society where the day flies by all too fast, Menucha offers opportunities and time for community building, reflection, renewal, cultural and artistic creation, advancement of personal and community possibilities, and spiritual pilgrimages. Place these experiences within an environment of laughter and shouts of encouragement from peers and family and you have soaring moments of epiphany, deep periods of peace, and a genuine sense of re-creation. All of this is, through God's grace, just a day in the life of Menucha.

Secluded on a 100 acre promontory, less than a half hour drive to Portland International Airport, this landscape is a quiet place apart from a world in fast motion. Trails offer guests the chance to walk and hike amid ecosystems where the essence of Menucha is tangible. Old-

growth cedars and Douglas fir trees stand as icons to the accumulation of time. The area's flora and fauna include



forty-one threatened or endangered species, ten of which are unique to the Columbia River Gorge.

The Board and the staff of Menucha work hard to make this life-changing space affordable to a wide spectrum of individuals and non-profit organizations. They are constantly seeking ways to enhance guests' experiences while keeping costs as low as possible. Soaring energy costs, the upkeep involved in maintaining an estate with such an en-

dearing history, and a slow economy have put the Menucha experience beyond the reach of some. Perhaps even those who most need it.

With such a need so plainly visible, a group of concerned and committed individuals gathered to form the Friends of Menucha Foundation. As a federally designated non-profit corporation, the Foundation has only one goal: to raise funds to assist Menucha in their mission to the northwest community. Their 2005 effort is aimed at expanding affordable access to Menucha. They are committed to raising \$150,000 for Menucha, approximately 10% of Menucha's annual operating budget, thereby making Menucha more affordable for groups and individuals and allowing Menucha to better serve the people who find Menucha a special and necessary focal point in their lives.

Please join the Friends of Menucha Foundation in making the Menucha experience available to an ever wider circle of people seeking its sacred space and time for purposeful work. Send your contribution to the Friends of Menucha Foundation today. You may use the form enclosed in this newsletter or visit our web site at www.friendsofmenuchafoundation.org

Photo by Merritt McCall



THANK YOU, SOLV!

Menucha has received a \$125 grant from SOLV to purchase loppers and pruning saws to be used for ivy removal. SOLV is a non-profit organization founded in 1969

by Governor Tom McCall for the purpose of helping Oregon residents, businesses and government agencies preserve Oregon's natural resources while building community through volunteerism.

English ivy (*Hedera helix*) is an aggressive, invasive, introduced alien species that has no natural controls in this ecosystem. If left unchecked, ivy would transform Menucha's

natural areas into monocultures that provide no habitat for indigenous wildlife. In addition, the ivy would smother the native plants such as trilliums, wild ginger, larkspur, and oxalis. Ivy covers about 50% of Menucha's 100 acre site and will destroy the native forest by the beginning of the next century.

Groups working on removing ivy this last year have included Springdale Job Corps, Multnomah Bible College, Northwest Service Academy, and groups and individuals from First Presbyterian Church of Portland. Please call Menucha at 503.695.2243 if you have an interest in ivy removal.

Thank you, SOLV, for the much used tools!



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

For well over a week I've stared at the modern day equivalent to a blank piece of paper (my computer monitor). It isn't that I'm waiting for inspiration so much as I am acutely aware of the importance of this article and exactly what I would like it to convey. We are about to launch our first ever annual fund drive, so I need to make two things crystal clear: First, that our need is genuine and that your contribution will make a difference and second, that the gift you give will affect the lives of countless people.

The first part is fairly easy. We have a lovely older facility to keep in good working order. (Perhaps the emphasis should be on the word "older.") For us to maintain the charm of Menucha we need to replace roofs, paint exteriors, renovate plumbing, refurbish rooms...the list is almost endless. Our staff is noted for being able to squeeze a dime so tight as to make a tear come out of Roosevelt's eye, but there is always more than present finances will allow us to do.

The second part is the difficult part. It isn't that we don't affect the lives of people. We do. In fact, I have been amazed at the effect we have on the people who visit here. I have been the director of two facilities prior to Menucha and while folks spoke highly of their experiences at these facilities, I have never had described to me the kind of life-changing experiences of which people here speak. This is my dilemma. How does one describe such profound experiences? How do you convey the depth and breadth of emotion? How do you express the kind of fundamental change that comes with these emotions and experiences?

For example, how does one describe the sheer joy of a person as they tell you that it was at Menucha that they experienced their first burst of artistic creativity? On the surface this sounds like such a simple experience. Something that would certainly make someone feel good about themselves. Perhaps those of you who are artists might understand better, for there was a fire behind his eyes as he told me this. Something about Menucha and his experience here had fanned a spark into a blaze. Something inside him had been set free and you could tell that he would never be the same.

Or how do you convey the gratitude expressed by another one of our guests? As a reforming alcoholic he told me that it was

at Menucha he first realized that God didn't come in a bottle. He told me of his time of contemplation here, of the support of his peers as they gathered here. He told me that his visit to Menucha had begun the journey of 16 years of sobriety. A journey that he continues to this day. A journey he has helped others start at the same place his started — Menucha.



Rev. Spencer Parks
Executive Director

And then there was the lady in the final stages of cancer. Her eyes filled with tears as she told me that it was at Menucha she finally came to grips with her disease. Her tears were not from pain or fear, but rather from the profound sense of peace that Menucha had helped evoke. What kind of value can you place on such an experience? For that matter, what kind of value can you place on any of these experiences? They are beyond measure for all of these people.

A number of years back BASF ran an advertisement that said something to the effect that they weren't the company who made the products you use. They were the company who make the products you use better. I think that is very close to describing the Menucha experience. People can take art lessons anywhere. AA meetings are conducted in a variety of places. Cancer support groups are active in most hospitals. But something vital happens when these take place at Menucha. That's why we have some communities that have been meeting here for 40 years and longer. That's why some groups go the extra mile to make sure their gathering takes place here.

So we invite you to help us help others. Please carefully consider your gift to us. And when you give, know that your dollars reach out to help groups and individuals from all over the Pacific Northwest. Your gift, large or small, counts. You can make a difference. Please give and please give with a generous heart.

Peace,
Spencer

Please see insert page for our donation form or visit our web site, www.menucha.org for an online form.



THE MENUCHA COOKTOP — From our kitchen to yours — Enjoy!

LEMON GLAZED CREAM CHEESE POUND CAKE — serves 12-15

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 6 oz. cream cheese | 2 teaspoons vanilla | 5 eggs |
| 2 ¼ cups sugar | 1 teaspoon lemon extract | ⅛ teaspoon salt |
| 1 cup margarine | ½ teaspoon orange extract | 2 ¼ cups flour |
| 1 tablespoon lemon juice | | |

Brush bundt pan with shortening and dust with flour. Beat cream cheese, sugar and margarine until light and fluffy. Mix in lemon juice, vanilla, lemon and orange extracts. Add eggs 1 at a time, beating well after each addition. Mix salt and flour. Add to mixture a little at a time. Beat until smooth. Pour into pan and bake at 325° for approximately 70 minutes. Remove from oven and place on cooling rack; cool for 10 minutes. Invert cake onto cooling rack and cool for an additional 10 minutes. Drizzle with glaze.

GLAZE: *Mix ½ cup powdered sugar, 1 Tablespoon lemon juice and 1 teaspoon half & half. Mix with wire whisk until smooth.*



40 YEARS OF ARTS AT MENUCHA

This summer marks the 40th annual series of classes in the visual and literary arts for the Creative Arts Community. Two week-long sessions, July 31st - August 6th and August 7th - 13th, have been planned. We are proud of the quality of our classes, a m a z i n g professional instructors and seriously open students. Teachers and the more experienced participants greet folks who are novices and bravely trying their hand at a medium for the first time.



The class studios are open from early in the morning until very late at night. Participants are free to look in on other classes in the evenings and most do, with an eye toward trying something new in the coming year. While our days in the studios are highly focused, we mix disciplines in conversations over the meal tables. Evenings are highlighted by a program presented by an instructor on the "what, how and why" of their artwork.

A little known additional benefit of our time together is our ability to play as a group. We

have instituted a hat night, where participants are encouraged to wear their favorite headgear. It's a great icebreaking activity for most participants. Late nights will often find a group singing in the tunnel just below the dining hall (enjoying the particular resonance of that structure). Other groups gather around the kilns in the ceramics area. It is wonderful time to be free of the responsibilities



of work and home for a week or two, to reflect on our lives, and to chart a course for the coming year.

Class offerings are listed to the right. For complete class descriptions, please request a brochure by contacting us at:

Creative Arts Community
PO Box 4958
Portland, OR 97208

or visit our website at

www.creativeartscommunity.org

WEEK 1: JULY 31 - AUGUST 6

Color Studies from Natural Environments - Margot Voorhies Thompson

Stepping Into Fiction - Harold Johnson

About Face: Inner and Outer Visions of Portraits - Barbara Black

New Techniques in Watermedia Ruth Armitage

Basketry: Wild Materials, Natural Forms - Elaine Falbo

Creating Through Collage Linda Berkley

Low Fire Ceramics: Form and Color - Natalie Warrens

WEEK 2: AUGUST 7-13, 2005

Open Painting Studio Melinda Thorsnes

Adventures in Drawing Clint Brown

Kaleidoscopic Color for the Watercolorist - Susan Cowan

Sculpture: Low-Tech Metal Casting - Tamsie Ringler

Printmaking Possibilities - Debby Neely

Ceramics: Finding Expression Through Traditional Forms Don Sprague



Story contributed by Judy Teufel
Photos taken by Ruth Robbins

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: PAT HAFFNER



My name is Pat Haffner, and I have worked at Menucha since 1977. My family and I had moved to the Corbett area from Milwaukie, Oregon after my husband was discharged from the Air Force. I found out about Menucha when Carolyn McCall and I became friends while both of us were in the PTA. My two older sons were about the same age as the McCall children and have been friends with them ever since. I started working as a

dining room hostess, until the US Census Bureau lured me away for a slightly higher salary. With my husband also on the road for his job, we became aware that neither of us would be readily available if our children needed us. It was at this point that an office position opened up at Menucha and I was offered the job. When I first started, I did payroll calculations by hand, bought for the gift shop, did inventory and filing, and answered phones. When I gave birth to our third son, I cut back from full time to half time,

sharing the job with Donna Leamy. Now my job consists of doing bookings and billings, collections, and various other things.

Over the years, Menucha has allowed me the flexibility to home school our two youngest sons, and to do volunteer work in the community as a school board member for nine years and on our church council for four years. It also gave me time to head up a mentoring group working with local high school juniors and seniors in the Aspire program. Now, as a Kiwanis member, I and another friend advise the local Key Club at Corbett High School. Two of our sons have graduated

from college, one is attending the University of Oregon, and our youngest son is a student at Corbett High. We have two wonderful grandsons who live in Chicago with our oldest son and his wife. We live in hopes of their returning to the Portland area.

I love working at Menucha; it has been an oasis many times when my life was hectic. My co-workers have always been supportive and encouraging; it has been a wonderful place to work and explore new avenues of growth. I look forward to continuing to work here for some years to come. It is a blessing to be part of this Menucha family.

SAVE THE DATE!
3rd Annual Harvest Dinner and Auction
Sunday, Sept. 11, 2005 at Menucha



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 Corbett OR

Menucha Retreat and Conference Center
 PO Box 8
 Corbett OR 97019



CONTACT INFORMATION



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

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Email address _____

Phone: 503-695-2243
Fax: 503-695-2223
Email: office@menucha.org
Mail: PO Box 8
 Corbett OR 97019

I would like to receive Menucha communications via:
 Email Regular mail
 Is this a change of address (mailing or email) notification?
 Yes No



Many people have discovered the joy of planned giving as a way of being responsible stewards of the blessings God has entrusted to them. If you would like to remember Menucha in your will and see the ministry and mission of Menucha continue for many years to come, please give us a call. We have excellent representatives who can talk with you about planned giving and answer any questions you might have.

SAVE the DATE!



**Circle Sunday,
September 11, 2005 on
your calendars for our
3rd Annual Harvest Dinner
and Silent Auction at Menucha**

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

If you have some time to spare, consider volunteering at Menucha! Just a few of the excellent benefits include:



- ♦ develop skills and gain work experience
- ♦ beautiful, peaceful surroundings
- ♦ meet new people who share your enthusiasm about Menucha and its ministry

If you have questions, or would like to get more information, please give us a call at 503.695.2243





Donor Pledge Form

Name (Please Print) _____
Business (If Applicable) _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Contact Phone Number _____ Fax _____
E-mail Address _____

How would you like to make your monetary pledge? Please print clearly.

Amount of gift: \$ _____

Check Made payable to: Menucha

Bill me:

- Quarterly, starting _____
- Monthly, starting _____
- Semi-annually, starting _____
- Other, starting _____

Credit Card: Visa Mastercard
#: _____
Exp. _____

Other _____
(Call Menucha at 503.695.2243 to discuss details)

Categories of Support:

Seven Generations	\$5,000 or more
Old Growth	\$2,500 to \$4,999
Touchstone	\$1,000 to \$2,499
Journey	\$500 to \$999
Nurture	\$250 to \$499
Heritage	\$100 to \$249

Please check one:

This donation is unrestricted

This donation is restricted for _____

Signature _____
Date _____

Compensation, goods or services have not been given by Menucha in return for this contribution