



Menucha Retreat & Conference Center
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SAVE THE DATE for our 15th ANNUAL MENUCHA FUNDRAISING DINNER
“THE ROAD HOME” presented by the Friends of Menucha Foundation
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th • 5:30 pm in WRIGHT HALL

Tickets: \$100 per person or \$700 for a table of 8

Honorary Chairs: John and Brenda Morris • Special Guest Speaker: Gordon Kennedy

We invite you to join us as we gather together to celebrate Menucha at our 15th Annual Fundraising Dinner on September 10th. The evening begins with wine, hors d’oeuvres, champagne and live music on the terrace overlooking the beautiful Columbia River Gorge. We’ll gather with old friends and new friends in the elegantly transformed Great Hall to enjoy an amazing three-course dinner prepared by Menucha’s talented kitchen staff. The highlight of the evening centers around Menucha and why individuals, families and communities need to experience this wonderful place! The monies raised will benefit our “For the Next Generation” campaign as we look to improve the roads that lead our guests into our beautiful retreat.

Brenda and John moved to Portland from Alexandria, Virginia in 2003. They joined First Presbyterian Church in May 2004; John has served on the Menucha Commission as well as the Friends of Menucha Foundation Board of Stewards. Both John and Brenda have been faithful and active volunteers at Menucha since May 2007. The two met on a blind date in California in 1963 while Brenda was flying for Pan American World Airways and John was serving as an officer in the Marine Corps. They recently celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary. John is a retired commercial banking officer and legal administrator. Brenda was a full-time homemaker and mother for their two sons John III and Jason. They have three grandchildren: Holland 16, her brother Conwell 13, and Sophie 12.



 “Menucha is my favorite place in the world,” declares Gordon Kennedy, our dinner’s invited speaker. He was introduced to Menucha as a child when he came here with his parents, longtime First Presbyterian Church members Evan and Betty Lou. However, after college Gordon and his wife Liisa Mannery settled in Seattle so opportunities to visit Menucha were few and far between. In 2011 he was delighted to see an advertisement for our first Ukulele Band Camp. As a uke aficionado, he jumped at the chance to make music at Menucha. While here, he noticed the official Menucha maps put out for guests could use a little freshening. (We admit they were a photocopy of a photocopy and did not look very nice). He offered to share his professional expertise as a cartographer and created the beautiful new map we use today. We so appreciate Gordon’s gift of time and talent!

Tickets for table sponsorships and individual seats will go on sale on Sunday, July 30th. We hope you’ll come and celebrate with us as we raise funds for this special place!

Menucha is an ecumenical community-based mission of
 First Presbyterian Church of Portland, Oregon

Summer 2017

CONTACT INFORMATION

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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MAIL PO Box 8
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Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Email address _____

I would like to receive Menucha communications via:
 Email Regular mail

**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’s easier than ever to support Menucha. You can donate using your credit card with our secure on-line form. Simply go to www.friendsofmenuchafoundation.org and click on the “Donate Today” 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 programs, 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.



OUR STEWARDSHIP OF PEOPLE

Spencer Parks, Executive Director

I have been a professional in the camp, conference, and retreat business for over 30 years. In that time I've planned or helped plan thousands of events. I'm happy to say that most have gone well; there have been a few stinkers...but, hopefully, you learn from your mistakes and don't repeat them. It is always gratifying to have things turn out just as you planned, to have attendees encounter just the kind of experiences you had hoped for them, to complete an event and to have scored high on all your anticipated outcomes.



Occasionally things don't turn out as planned; they turn out even better. I cannot think of a time when this has happened that has not included something totally unexpected, something that was not in the original plan or even on my radar. It was a serendipitous moment that completely changed the climate of the event. Sometimes it was synergistic, sometimes it was just a pleasant moment that added greatly to each attendee's experience.

I am especially delighted when these moments take place with the groups that visit Menucha. Normally, groups pretty much keep to themselves and do their own thing, but occasionally the different groups will interact with each other. Sometimes, this has had almost miraculous consequences. Like when....

- A group of cancer patients felt the love and support of a women's church group.
- A group of women dealing with some life challenges was serenaded by a high school choir.
- An art group was able to invite a family reunion to their final exhibit.

These are just a few that I know of. I'm sure there are more that I never hear about. What's more, there are countless interactions that happen between individuals from the different groups. People who haven't seen each other in ages often discover each other again here. They meet and get reacquainted over a meal or discover something they didn't know about the other ("You never told me that you played the dulcimer!"). It's just one more thing that sets Menucha apart from other retreat spaces. We don't plan these kinds of interactions. We do provide a safe space for them to take place.

Ultimately, we're not just in the retreat business, but rather we're in the people business. One of the principles that guides us is the notion of stewardship. We believe that stewardship involves the temporary care of something so that when you hand it back, it's better than it was when you first received it. We believe we are tasked with the stewardship of people. It is our goal that you are cared for so well that when you leave us you're a much more whole, healthy, and peaceful person than when you arrived. Sometimes we get a little help from the other groups here in making that happen.

We hope that you have a wonderful summer. Enjoy the warm weather and the sunshine. We hope that some of your summer plans include us (if not, we're here all year!). Come and experience our stewardship of people. We'll take good care of you...and sometimes we might even get a little help from our guests.



OUR ANNUAL CROQUET TOURNAMENT

The Friends of Menucha Foundation Board of Stewards has made the difficult decision to cancel our Annual Croquet Tournament in July. We will take a break from the festivities this year, and will come back next year with a brand new event that will include activities for the entire family. Stay tuned for details!



WHAT OUR GUESTS ARE SAYING

Our Marketing Director Lauren Deming gets the opportunity to talk with lots of people as she is out promoting Menucha. "It is a great feeling when I meet people who, upon hearing where I work, say, 'I LOVE MENUCHA!'"

This happened recently when Lauren met Phyllis Leonard, who had visited Menucha dozens of times with two professional mathematics teaching groups: the mathematics department from Chemeketa Community College and the Oregon Mathematics Leadership Institute.

Phyllis said that the mathematics department from Chemeketa Community College "spent a couple of autumn days for a couple of years, planning our academic year's work together and enjoying the setting together. We reveled in the scrumptious food and the spectacular setting. It was inspirational for a working destination."



Her other experiences here were with the Oregon Mathematics Leadership Institute. "It was one of the very best (and most challenging) professional endeavors of my life. We used Menucha for our planning site on many occasions. We were impressed by the facilities, and by the amenities. We were wonderfully supported as we worked like crazy to design our courses and learn the best practices lessons our participants were to learn. We needed a comfortable setting, away

from our usual work environments, but also a place to refresh ourselves between intense work sessions. Menucha was our place! It was close enough for Willamette Valley participants, which most of us were, but also a lovely enough destination to entice our eastern and southern Oregon faculty and staff. We felt pampered at each meal, despite helping with set up or cleaning up. The food was so yummy we felt rewarded for our hard work."



WE'RE GLAD THAT SUMMER IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

Tim Kurkinen, Facilities Manager

Spring is ending and summer is swiftly approaching. A sigh of relief passes through Menucha.

There is much to do every spring in order to get Menucha ready for the hotter and drier months of the year. Our staff and volunteers have been picking up the remnants of fallen trees, clearing roads and fixing broken water lines. The gardens, lawns and pathways are always a lot of maintenance, especially after a winter like the one we just experienced.

We've made many improvements since last fall. New lights on the roads and grounds are in the process of being installed to wrap up the lighting upgrades with the Greening Project. Wright Hall is finally getting its new windows painted and stained. Soon the exterior walls will receive a fresh coat of paint.



There is still more to do, but we are always grateful when the winter weather is finally over and we can look forward to nicer and warmer weather.

Thank you to all of our stewards who never fail to keep Menucha a beautiful, sacred space.

AMAZON SMILE MAKES US SMILE!



Do you ever buy items online using Amazon?

Did you know there's an easy way to shop and help Menucha at the same time?

There's no cost to you. **Just go to [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com)**

and select Friends of Menucha Foundation as the charity you'd like to support.

Going forward, instead of going to Amazon.com, go to [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and every purchase you make gives .05% toward our work here. Thank you...every little bit helps!



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Follow us on Twitter

[@MenuchaRetreat](https://twitter.com/MenuchaRetreat)



WELCOME TO OUR NEW FOOD SERVICE CO-MANAGERS!



We are proud to welcome to our staff Colin Bradley and David Bell who will be serving as Food Service Co-Managers. Each brings a variety of skills and gifts to this position.

Colin has worked at Menucha for a total of seven years, and understands the fine tradition of our kitchen. David has been in the food service industry for over 25 years and brings a depth and breadth of culinary experience.

We hope you'll drop by the kitchen and meet these great new additions to our supervisory staff.

THE COOKTOP—A favorite recipe from the Menucha Kitchen

CHICKEN PARMESAN—serves 6

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Canola cooking spray | 1 teaspoon dried basil |
| ½ cup water | ½ teaspoon dried thyme |
| 1 egg, beaten | ½ teaspoon garlic powder |
| 1½ cups bread crumbs | 6 chicken breasts |
| 6 tablespoons parmesan cheese, divided | 2 cups marinara sauce |
| 1 tablespoon dried oregano | 1 cup shredded mozzarella |

Whisk water and egg together in a bowl until smooth. Combine bread crumbs, 2 tablespoons of the Parmesan cheese, oregano, basil, thyme, and garlic powder in a separate bowl. Dip each chicken breast in egg mixture, allowing excess egg to drip back into bowl. Coat each chicken breast in bread crumb mixture, shaking off excess. Repeat dipping each coated chicken breast in the egg mixture and the bread crumb mixture for a double coating and place in a baking dish sprayed with cooking spray. Spray breaded chicken breasts with cooking spray.

Bake in preheated 350° oven for 40 minutes. Pour marinara sauce over each chicken breast and top each with mozzarella cheese and remaining Parmesan cheese. Continue baking until chicken is no longer pink in the center and the cheeses are melted, about 15 minutes more. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the center should read at least 165° F (74° C).





CHECK OUT OUR MENUCHA PROGRAMS!



PRESBYTERIANS FOR EARTH CARE NATIONAL CONFERENCE September 24-29, 2017

PEC brings their national conference to Menucha focusing on "Blessing the Waters of Life: Justice and Healing for Our Watershed."

Leadership includes Rev. Dr. Barbara Rossing, Rev. Dr. Paul Galbreath, Jim and Jean Strathdee and Ilarion (Larry) Mercurieff.

BLUES IN THE GORGE September 30-October 4, 2017

Once again we're bringing in four world-class acoustic blues musicians: Mary Flower, Guy Davis, Valerie Turner and Orville Johnson will be sharing their expertise with 46 lucky participants. More info: www.menucha.org/programs/blues



Blues Masters Concert Sunday, October 1 at 7:00 pm at the Columbia Grange Hall in Corbett. One night only! Our instructors put on a concert for the general public. Tickets available from Menucha or at the door.



FIND ALL THE DETAILS at menucha.org/programs



FALL WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP: ABSTRACTING FROM NATURE with instructor Ruth Armitage October 23-26, 2017

Join Ruth Armitage for a workshop inspired by nature, but leaning toward the abstract using mixed water media.

Ruth approaches teaching by showing multiple approaches through slide presentations and demonstrations. She is an experienced and enthusiastic instructor with over 20 years of teaching experience, as well as an award-winning artist.

PRACTICAL CHURCH LEADERSHIP SEMINAR with Rev. Ken Evers-Hood MAKING BETTER DECISIONS TOGETHER October 28, 2017



How many decisions do leaders make every day? Scholars tell us about 10,000. Have you taken a class in decision-making? During this Saturday seminar, come learn to distinguish between judging decisions by their outcome versus assessing them by their quality. This will help your church and you make better decisions.

SCRAP & SEW CRAFT RETREAT December 1-3, 2017

Join fellow scrapbookers, quilters, knitters and crocheters for a great weekend away to be together. You may opt to come for either one or two nights.

Come relax and let Menucha's staff take care of the cooking and cleaning. Focus on doing something you love: sewing, creating albums, making cards or other crafts.

