



MENUCHA

Sacred Space - Purposeful Work

The Menucha Meander

CHRISTMAS DINNER AT MENUCHA SOUTH OF THE BORDER STYLE

On December 6th more than 80 guests enjoyed an early celebration of Christmas at Menucha, complete with a delicious dinner and dancing. The festive party raised around \$5,000 for the First Presbyterian Church youth group's mission trip to Guatemala in 2012 through ticket sales, a raffle and direct contributions.

Youth group parents organized the event previously known as the Menucha Ball. They chose to give the décor a south of the border look and feel in honor of the country where the youth will serve next summer. Upon arrival, guests were served Guatemalan fruit punch rather than the traditional wassail. The decorations in Wright Hall included ones used by people in Central America such as red poinsettias and roosters. Roosters are a Guatemalan Christmas symbol because they crow to herald the coming of the light. Guests were charmed by tissue paper flowers on the 18 foot Christmas tree, poinsettias covering the mantle and ringing the light fixtures and roosters perched on the mantle and piano.



Table service was provided by 18 high school and middle school kids from the church. They carried out cucumber and radish salad, turkey with mole and cranberry sauces, baked yams, green beans, and rolls. For dessert, guests could choose between coconut cream pie and tres leches (three milks), a Guatemalan cake. Both desserts included a chocolate truffle handmade in the Menucha kitchen.



Smiles all around in support of the FPC Youth trip to Guatemala

The raffle offered guests a chance to win one of four items: a scarf knit by Emily Jo Jensen; an ice bucket and wine given by Jane van Boskirk; a St. Nicholas statue donated by Katrina Halverson; and a jewelry set created by Candace Primack. Once the raffle winners were drawn, guests danced for hours to music chosen by youth DJ, Joe Dougherty.

Our appreciation goes to the many donors and volunteers who made the evening possible: Sandy Castles, Rebekah Coles, Lauren Deming, Trina Densen, Julie Emry, Sally Fish, Jan Halsey, Katrina Halverson, Cheryl Kleier, Joyce Malin, Amy Meabe, Laura Merrill, Joey Razzano, Laurna Shively, Sue van Stelle and MaryKay West. Special thanks to the Menucha staff for doing the lion's share of the decorating. What a great evening!



WHERE IS SPENCER GOING? Spencer Parks, Executive Director



This past June I celebrated my 7th anniversary as the Executive Director of Menucha. My time at Menucha has been some of the most rewarding of my career. In many ways it has been like a good marriage; it seems as if it started only a few months back, while at the same time feeling like it has been this way forever. Both of those are good things. I am looking forward to many more years at Menucha. There is still much work to do and I'm excited about the possibilities and the potential that I see in our future.

With all that in mind, it is time for me personally to seek a change. Presently my contract allows me to take some significant time off for a sabbatical after each seven year period of service. I am grateful for this opportunity as it presently comes at a phase when I am feeling a strong need for some extensive rest and renewal time. My plans are to step away the first of March and to return the first of July of 2012. It is my desire that this sabbatical be used to prepare me, mentally and emotionally, for the next 7+ years so that I might serve with revitalized creativity and enthusiasm.

This doesn't mean that I'm going to just sit on a beach somewhere for four months (although there are plans to engage in that particular activity for a week or so). I don't sit still well. My wife, Sarah, is fond of telling me that a change is as good as a rest. So, with that in mind, I will begin my sabbatical with a month long stint in Uganda working with a group called Partners in Mission. They have established a Secondary and Vocational School in Kamwenge in the southwestern part of Uganda. I will be teaching English, computer and life skills to the students there (mostly middle school age kids). There is even the possibility that I might lead a group of college students on a backpacking trip. This group is also in the process of establishing a new retreat and conference center. I will be working with the director of that program as they begin this type of work. It will be interesting to see what we have in common and to share experiences. I'm sure I will come away with a host of new ideas. It is shaping up to be an exciting visit.

I have been told that I will have some kind of internet access even in Kamwenge. For the African part of my sabbatical I plan to set up a blog. I'll be posting pictures and writing about my time there. I hope you'll take a few minutes and check in on me from time to time. You will be able to find it through our Menucha website (www.menucha.org).

The rest of my sabbatical will be spent traveling (I hope to spend a couple of weeks in Europe) and reconnecting with friends and family on the East Coast.....and then there's the farm. As you may recall, Sarah and I bought a small farm a bit over a year ago. It still needs a lot of work. I'm excited about the possibility of putting up fences, raising a few animals and planting a vegetable garden this year. It will be good to reconnect with the basic pleasure of physical work. My only regret is that I will be away when many of you come to visit Menucha. Please know that I will miss you. While I might be absent, you will not be absent from my thoughts. I hope you and your families will have a wonderful holiday season. I look forward to swapping stories when I return.



The Christmas season is the perfect time of year to say how much we appreciate each of you. It is with thankful hearts that all of us at Menucha wish you the blessings of this holiday season. May it be a time of peace and joy for you and those you love, and may your new year be filled with hope and happiness. We hope to see you at Menucha in 2012!



RAISE THE ROOF UPDATE: ROOF, CHIMNEY AND TERRACE PROJECT

Ernie Yoder, Menucha Maintenance Supervisor

The final phase of our “Raise the Roof” project is nearing completion. On March 11th Menucha began the replacement of the Wright Hall chimneys, followed by the tear-off and replacement of the roof. We are in the midst of the repair and expansion of the terrace on the north side of Wright Hall.

After 83 years of wear and tear by the elements and weather, Wright Hall was due for some extensive repair if it was to continue to offer to our guests the wonderful experience that so many have enjoyed over the years.

A special thanks to our grant writer extraordinaire (and Friends of Menucha Foundation President) Joyce Malin, for successfully submitting requests for five grants: M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, The Collins Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, The Kinsman Foundation, and the Wheeler Foundation.



We also want to especially thank former Menucha Commission member George Erdenberger for his expertise in designing the terrace project, which complements Wright Hall. We are grateful for his ongoing encouragement to maintain Menucha’s historical context.

We look forward to the completion of the project, and will include photos in our next newsletter.





UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT MENUCHA

Scott Crane, Program Director

All programs are listed on Menucha's web page. As events come closer, online registration forms will be available for each event, including the option to pay in full online.

IN SEARCH OF THE BELOVED COMMUNITY JANUARY 17-18, 2012

Address the legacy of racism that continues to keep our congregations racially, ethnically, and socially segregated. Leave the next generation with something more valuable than material goods and self-interest. Reduce conflict between racial/ethnic groups.



**PASTORS
UNPLUGGED:**
- LESS CONFERENCE
- MORE CONVERSATION

PASTORS UNPLUGGED RETREAT JANUARY 23-25, 2012

Disconnect with your parish for a while. Connect with your fellow pastors for a time of learning, fellowship and renewal. Opportunity to take a look at Lectionary for Lent (if you wish) as well as small group gatherings around topics of interest today: small church, changing denomination, changing Church. Relax, Reflect, Renew.

BREAD AND WINE LENTEN JOURNEY FEBRUARY 10-12, 2012

Make Bread, Tour Wineries, Reflect. A journey for anyone wishing to add sensory experience to reflections on Lent. Bring your small group with you.



SPRING WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP MARCH 26-29, 2012

In partnership with the Watercolor Society of Oregon we bring artist Carol Carter to Menucha for four full days of painting (9:00 am – 4:00 pm). A perfect spring break enrichment opportunity for teachers!

PINK LEMONADE RETREAT

We are fortunate to be partnering with the Pink Lemonade Foundation to offer a series of four retreats in the coming year for those affected by cancer. This first retreat will be a midweek event, April 9-11, 2012. Stay tuned to our website for more details.



LATER EVENTS TO KEEP YOUR EYE OUT FOR:

MENUCHA UKULELE BAND CAMP—MAY 7-11, 2012

Join us at the Menucha Ukulele Band Camp! A privileged, intimate residential camp with four band "music styles" offered. Band leaders will teach their bands once in the morning and the same style band in the afternoon, each time with a different set of music.

COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE MOUNTAIN DULCIMER FESTIVAL—MAY 31-JUNE 2, 2012

Plan now to attend the third annual Mountain Dulcimer Festival! Fantastic instructors, workshops, and performances by world renowned dulcimer artists. Vendors will display all manner of instruments and dulcimer accessories; CD's from our performers will be available as well.

PINK LEMONADE RETREAT—SUMMER 2012

Our second retreat will be Saturday-Monday, July 14-16, 2012. Stay tuned to our website for more details.



**WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THOSE WHO HAVE GENEROUSLY
SUPPORTED FRIENDS OF MENUCHA FOUNDATION**

Nov. 16, 2010- Nov. 15, 2011

SEVEN GENERATIONS (5000+)

The Collins Foundation
Al and Nancy Jubitz
The Kinsman Foundation
MJ Murdock Charitable Trust
Don and Rosemary Pullin
Tom and Kathy Withycombe

OLD GROWTH (2500-4999)

Leupold and Stevens Foundation
Chip and Nanita Sammons

TOUCHSTONE (1000-2499)

Bob Blum and Carol Black
Jon and Arlene Clemens
Will and Lauren Deming
Roger and Robin Garvin
Gene and Lois Jackson
Tim and Linda Killen
Erich and Laura Merrill
Jim Milne
Allen and Carolyn Nesbitt
Oregon Community Foundation-
Friends of Menucha Fund
Spencer Parks & Sarah van Haeften
Elizabeth Price, Price Family Living Trust
Steve and Candace Primack
Chris Rasmussen
Steve Robards
Mike and Janet Starosciak
Peter and Ann van Bever

JOURNEY (500-999)

Jim and Mary Brown
Terry and Elizabeth Clifford
Creative Arts Community
Don and Norma Fales
Charles and Charlotte Faries
Jerry and Sally Fish
Marlin and Nancy Icenogle
Murlan Kaufman & Ginny Bistodeau
Dick and Ruthie Keller
David and Janet Leatherwood
Rick and Jill Lee
Dick and Joyce Malin
John McSwigan and Benneth Husted

JOURNEY (500-999) - cont'd

Jerry Mishler and Sara Grigsby
Kent Neff and Linda Wolff
Wilma Peterson
Bruce and Barbara Purdy
Ed and Doris Reid
Pete and Bonnie Taylor
George and Lori Webb
Jeff and MaryKay West
Rich and Julie Williams
Ernie and Jeri Yoder

NURTURE (250-499)

Cam and Midge Birnie
Alyce Cheatham
Lisa Fogg
Jason Foidel and Becky Lindsay
Brad and Katrina Halverson
Tom and Gayle Hughes
Ken Landgraver & Sandy Jensen
Brent and Marny Lawson
John and Ann Leuthauser
Merriitt and Carolyn McCall
John and Brenda Morris, Jr.
Bill and Anna Myers
Oliver and Mary Norville
Charles and Ruth Poindexter
Wes and Gail Post
Chris and Joey Razzano
Richard Peterson and
Connie Schwendemann
Natasha Seeley
Nancy Winter

HERITAGE (100-249)

Andrew Aebi
Mark and Marjorie Bellesiles
Erik and Shannon Berg
John and Justie Braestrup
Harold Broughton
Graham and Sharley Bryce
John and Margaret Crowell, Jr.
Marco and Joan Dondero
Eastminster Presbyterian Church
John and Holly Eddins
Spencer Ehrman
Gordon Evans

HERITAGE (100-249) - cont'd

Meredith Fisher and
Beverly Inglesby
Barbara Gay and K.P. Francis
Doug and Carolyn Gray
Amy Green
Marilyn Hanson
David Hawkins
Holistic Pet Center
John and Sara Hortenstine
Al Jantzen
John and Emily Jo Jensen
Warren and Linda Johnson
Ted and Debbie Kaye
John and Betty Kendall, Jr.
Anne Kennedy
Vic and Mary Ellen Langman
Betty Jo Lee
Rick and Sharon Malin
Ann McCartney
Bob and Cindy McSwain
Walt and Jean Meihoff
Victoria Milne
Marv and Carol Mitchell
Mary Myers
Claudia Nix
Evelyn (Pepper) Pollock
Larry Pound
Gordon and Mary Priedeman
Annalee Purdy
Rasta Jana Vala Fellowship Group
Mark and Kim Reller
Willard and Lurna Shively
Phyllis Smith
Gregg and Doris Swanson
Judy Teufel
Brian and Cynthia Winter
Amy Wood
Dorothy Wysham
Richard and Patsy Yeager

We appreciate the nearly 60 donors who have contributed amounts of less than \$100. We are grateful for their support, and regret that space limitations prevent us from listing their names.



WELCOME, TRACIE!

Tracie Hall is our new Head of Housekeeping, replacing Cindy Wheeler, who retired on October 1st. Tracie started work on September 26, is excited to be at Menucha, and feels blessed to be working in such a beautiful setting.

Tracie was born in Washington, DC, and graduated from the University of Georgia. Before coming to Menucha, she was the Office Manager at the Springwater Church of the Nazarene. Her job came to an end when a new pastor was hired, which is common in the Nazarene denomination.

"I believe God brought me here to Menucha," says Tracie, who heard about the job opening from the folks at the Corbett Grange. Tracie and her two children, Max (10) and Piper (8), live not too far from Menucha, and are actively involved in the community.

We're happy that Tracie has joined our staff, and hope you will take the opportunity to meet and welcome her the next time you visit Menucha.

THE COOKTOP

A Favorite Recipe from the Menucha Kitchen

HUMMINGBIRD CAKE

Serves 16 (as a three layer cake)

3 cups flour	1 cup vegetable oil
1 tsp baking soda	1 ½ tsp vanilla extract
1 tsp salt	1 8-oz can crushed pineapple, <u>undrained</u>
2 cups sugar	1 cup chopped pecans
1 tsp cinnamon	2 cups chopped bananas
3 eggs	

Combine flour, baking soda, salt, sugar and cinnamon into a large bowl; add eggs and oil, stirring until dry ingredients are moistened (do not beat). Stir in vanilla, pineapple, pecans and bananas.

Pour batter into three greased and floured 8-inch round pans. Bake at 350° for approximately 25 minutes or until a wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool to room temperature. Frost with cream cheese frosting, and sprinkle with chopped pecans.

CREAM CHEESE FROSTING

1 1 oz cream cheese
¾ butter, softened
2 cups powdered sugar
1 ½ tsp vanilla extract
½ cup chopped pecans

Beat cream cheese and softened butter at medium speed until smooth. Gradually add powdered sugar, beating at low speed until light and fluffy. Stir in vanilla.



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER

Facebook users, have you checked us out at www.Facebook.com/Menucha.Retreat.Center yet?

There are lots of reasons to LIKE our new-and-improved page, where visitors can find:

- Photos of Menucha in all seasons
- News of upcoming programs (including art, music, spirituality, and healthy living)
- Photos of artwork created here in our programs
- Updates on our building projects. Wright Hall's brick terrace is almost completed, and we can't wait for you to see it!

Birds aren't the only thing that tweet at Menucha. If you use Twitter, follow us there, too.

We tweet as MenuchaRetreat. One follower said he enjoys a small "Menucha moment" when he reads our messages. We'd be glad to provide a few words of peace during your busy day as well.



FRIENDS OF MENUCHA FOUNDATION YEAR END UPDATE



Joyce Malin, Foundation President

Holiday Greetings, Menucha Friends! As 2011 draws to a close, the Friends of Menucha Foundation Board of Directors can end the year with high fives and grateful hearts. Because of you, our donors and supporters, it is a year to be proud of with the tremendous success of our *Raise the Roof* campaign.

If Wright Hall could say thank you, it might be through happy faces on its three new chimneys, clapping shingles on its new roof giving you all a warm round of applause, and tears of joy from its new and expanded terrace that can now provide guests a place to relax and enjoy the view, reflect on God's beauty and bounty, and offer handicapped access and generous space for all to join their friends in conversation, reflection and song.

Enthused by our "outside" success, the Foundation is now focused on critical needs inside of Wright Hall. In early spring we launched a new fund-raising campaign, *Recipe for Success*. This was announced in our donor appeal letter requesting support for the purchase of much-needed equipment for the kitchen, and followed by our annual International Croquet Tournament in July, which was our best ever. We owe a special thank you to Candace Primack for spearheading a silent auction at the tournament, which gave participants the opportunity to purchase unique items provided by creative and generous donors in support of our new campaign.

The campaign's momentum grew substantially at our 9th Annual Fundraising Dinner in September, where the kitchen staff provided our guests with a gourmet dinner that surpassed all expectations, doing so using equipment that is now in its twilight years. Our guests once again responded generously. *Recipe for Success* is now more than halfway to our goal of \$75,000.

A new board member joined our team this year, Mike Starosciak. Mike brings to us enthusiasm and new perspectives, and has been "instrumental" in identifying and supporting the musicians who provide bluegrass music during our croquet tournaments. In fact, this year he was one of the performers!

I am proud to be joined by our dedicated and hardworking board (John Morris, Erik Berg, Shannon Berg, and Mike Starosciak) in wishing you and your loved ones a blessed holiday season and a new year filled with love and happiness.



MENUCHA GIFT SHOP NEWS

A few good volunteers would be just the answer to keeping the Gift Shop in Wright Hall open for retreat guests' enjoyment. A couple of hours during the middle of the day on Saturday or Sunday would be the highest priority time, and yes, a free lunch is included!

Arrive about 11:00 am, get a cup of coffee or tea, open the gift shop with the help of staff, and sit behind the counter ready for guests' purchases. At 12:15 pm join the weekend staff for a Menucha lunch. Return to the gift shop after lunch, and at 2:00 pm or so, close up and enjoy the Columbia Gorge scenery on your way home.

Training is provided, and a current volunteer will stay with you for your first couple of times in the gift shop. Call

Becky Leamy in the Menucha office (503-695-2243) if you are interested, or email her at becky@menucha.org. Weekday volunteer shifts are also available during our busy seasons, summer and fall.

Menucha thanks you for considering this ministry opportunity.



Menucha Retreat & Conference Center
PO Box 8
Corbett, OR 97019

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MENUCHA . . . Sacred Space, Purposeful Work
See what we're all about at www.menucha.org

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:

PHONE 503-695-2243
FAX 503-695-2223
EMAIL office@menucha.org
MAIL PO Box 8
 Corbett, OR 97019

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" 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.