



Menucha Retreat & Conference Center  
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Corbett, OR 97019

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*Menucha is a sacred sanctuary held in stewardship as an ecumenical, community-based mission of First Presbyterian Church – Portland. Our mission is to enrich lives through hospitality, learning, reflection and renewal.*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR GAYLE STARKER

The Menucha staff chose Gayle Starker to receive the 2015 Menucha Rose Award. "This award honors a volunteer whose work has helped us grow and bloom," explained Director Spencer Parks. Gayle received a plaque and a hearty round of applause at the Friends of Menucha Foundation's Christmas dessert on Sunday, December 6 in Wright Hall.

Gayle volunteers in our gift shop, and helps prepare our gift shop inventory in August. Thank you, Gayle, for your love and care of Menucha, and for greeting our guests with a warm smile and a heart for hospitality!



*Menucha Executive Director Spencer Parks with our Volunteer of the Year recipient Gayle Starker*

## 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:

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

## WE HAVE MENUCHA NEWS TO SHARE . . .



Congratulations to our Facility Operations Director Tim Kurkinen and his wife Kim on the safe arrival of their new daughter. Heidi was born on Friday, November 20, weighing 8 pounds 9 ounces, and joins big sister Lucy. We are thrilled for them!

Betty Jane Wright has been on staff at Menucha since June 1997. She and her husband Bob recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a party given by their children and grandchildren. We wish them many more happy years!



This summer, the Creative Arts Community celebrated their 50th year of providing two one-week art sessions at Menucha. As art enthusiasts themselves, the volunteer board members design and conduct each "camp" as an opportunity for both novices and seasoned professionals. Students go home from camp with their creativity refreshed and friendships developed. Mark your calendars! 2016 workshop dates are July 31-August 6 and August 7-13.



Our Executive Director Spencer Parks celebrated the 30th anniversary of his ordination this year. Having him with us at Menucha is truly a blessing!

## 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](http://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.



## PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TO ALL Rev. Spencer Parks, Executive Director

Perhaps it's a sign of my age, but I find myself increasingly more concerned about what's going on in the world. Statistically, we're told that we live in one of the more peaceful times in world history. On a worldwide scale, violence is down, wars don't kill as many people as they used to, conflicts are not as intense or massive as they once were. It just doesn't feel that way. It seems that every time I tune into the news I'm hearing something totally different.



Perhaps it's because a lot of the violence is hitting close to home. Random shootings, racially motivated killings, vicious acts from radicalized individuals have all been in the headlines in just the past few months....and that's just in this country. The kinds of terrible things happening worldwide are too numerous and too horrific to even list. I find myself fearful, not because I fear something bad happening to myself or my family, but because I don't see an end in sight. However, that doesn't mean that I'm not hopeful.

Here we are right in the middle of the "peace on earth, good will to all" season. I am reminded of a time when our world was a good deal more violent. It was the beginning of the First World War.....Christmas 1914. Somehow people on both sides of no man's land managed to call a halt to the hostilities, at least for a little while. One website wrote:

*The starting of this Christmas truce was very amazing! It bubbled up from the ranks, with both armies making small gestures of good will in the days before Dec. 25. In France, some Germans suggested a brief, local ceasefire, even sweetening the deal with a chocolate cake. Along the Lys River, a battalion of Welsh infantrymen hoisted a banner reading "Merry Christmas" accompanied by a sketch of Kaiser Wilhelm II. What both sides found was that the other side had ordinary men like themselves. Once they had broken the ice with greetings and handshakes, they started talking about their homes, their jobs, their families. Many realized that they bore each other no real enmity, that they were merely pawns in a vast struggle beyond their control.*

*The camaraderie for a short time spread. On Christmas Day, thousands of unarmed men from both sides again emerged from the trenches, having agreed to use the daylight to collect their dead. This time, the enemy soldiers swapped pieces of equipment and parts of their uniforms. Many shared photographs of their families and took pictures of themselves with their new friends...In some places, combatants even played soccer with makeshift balls.*

It was short-lived, but for a while, even in the midst of violence, peace broke out. That and a thousand other events and people give me hope that one day peace will win out over war, love will eventually conquer hate and that people everywhere will come to understand that they have more in common with one another than they have differences.

At Menucha, we're doing our part to bring folks together, to help discover our commonality, and to promote peace on earth and good will to all. We hope that your holiday season is filled with peace and goodness and that you'll pass that along to the rest of our world.



## WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THOSE WHO HAVE GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED FRIENDS OF MENUCHA FOUNDATION November 16, 2014—November 15, 2015

### SEVEN GENERATIONS (5000+)

Anonymous  
Collins Foundation  
Chip and Nanita Sammons  
Tom and Kathy Withycombe

### OLD GROWTH (2500-4999)

Chris Rasmussen  
Wheeler Foundation

### TOUCHSTONE (1000-2499)

Bob Blum and Carol Black  
Jann Brown  
Arlene Clemens  
Terry and Elizabeth Clifford  
Don and Norma Fales  
Tom and Gayle Hughes  
Brian and Maureen Lawson  
Rick Lee  
Leupold and Stevens Foundation  
Erich and Laura Merrill  
John and Brenda Morris, Jr.  
Oregon Community Foundation  
Spencer Parks and  
Sarah van Haeften  
Jean Pletcher  
Travis and Christina Price  
Marcia Randall  
Steve Robards  
Mike and Janet Starosciak  
Judy Teufel  
Jeff and MaryKay West  
Fred and June Young

### JOURNEY (500-999)

Tom Atiyeh  
Micah Chu and Foy White Chu  
Kate Commerford  
Kathryn Feinstone  
Frank and Karen Halvorsen  
John and Jennifer Helmer, III  
John and Sara Hortenstine  
Diana Husband  
Lois Jackson  
Murlan Kaufman and  
Ginny Bistodeau  
Tim and Linda Killen  
Bruce Lawson  
Merritt and Carolyn McCall  
Walt and Jean Meihoff

### JOURNEY (500-999) cont'd

Richard Mesirow  
Portland Art Collective  
Chip Sammons, Holistic Pet Center  
James Strickland and Gayle Starker

### NURTURE (250-499)

Marianne Brogan, Portland  
Ukulele Association  
Annie Clingman  
Will and Lauren Deming  
Sam Galbreath  
William and Carol Gies  
Carl and Peggy Hammond  
Marlin and Nancy Icenogle  
John and Emily Jo Jensen  
John Kinyon  
David and Janet Leatherwood  
Bob and Cindy McSwain  
Charles and Ruth Poindexter  
Wes Post  
Rosemary Pullin  
Chuck Shaw  
John Walling and Susan Hedlund  
George and Lori Webb  
Joe and Phyllis Whittington

### HERITAGE (100-249)

Ruth Beam  
Jim and Heather Bowman  
Harold Broughton  
Bob Bulkley and  
Joyce MacWilliamson  
Harold Burden  
Zane and Karol Buxton  
Greg and Barbara Conyne  
John and Peggy Crowell, Jr.  
Judy Dauble  
Daniel Dick and Amy Hall  
Bruce Felix and Audrey Schindler  
Jerry and Sally Fish  
Forrest and Patricia Frantz  
Friends of Lori Stegmann  
Rich and Erika George  
Sandi-Jo Goddard  
Mike and Barbara Goertz  
Herb and Louise Grose  
Dave and Jan Halsey  
David Hawkins  
Jack and Diane Hodges

### HERITAGE (100-249) cont'd

Charmaine Jensen  
Bonnie Jepsen  
Jerry Johnson and Susan True  
Sheilah Kasten  
John and Betty Kendall, Jr.  
Barbara Kuehner  
Paul Lambertsen  
Vic and Mary Ellen Langman  
Dick and Joyce Malin  
Ann McCartney  
Eleanor McClung  
Millard and Mary Lou McClung  
Margaret Mesirow  
Jerry Mishler and Sara Grigsby  
Marv and Carol Mitchell  
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Gordon and Mary Priedeman  
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Dan and Myra Rounsavell  
Pam Russell  
Joe and Debbie Schneider  
Tim Sercombe and  
Jane van Boskirk  
Thomas Sherwin  
Willard and Laurina Shively  
Phyllis Smith  
Russell and Jean Smith  
Steve and Lisa Snodderly  
Subud Portland  
Meagan Thorn  
Richard and Nathelle Togni  
Jim and Ann Walsh  
Helen Weber  
Carolyn Wieden  
Brian and Cynthia Winter  
Emmie Wurm

**We appreciate the 56 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.**



## FRIENDS OF MENUCHA FOUNDATION YEAR-END UPDATE

John Morris, Board President

Dear Friends,

With the close of 2015 we also mark the end of the Greening of Menucha Campaign which began in 2013. As I write this we're within \$30,000 of our original goal and will bring the campaign to a successful conclusion at year-end. The goal of the Greening Campaign is to make Menucha more energy efficient, reduce its carbon footprint on the environment, increase the comfort of its guests and reduce operating expenses. While renovations are still underway, we are pleased with the progress made to date. Menucha and its guests will reap the benefits of these improvements for years to come.

As in past years the Foundation sponsored two major fundraising events. Our 10th Annual International Croquet Tournament was held in July and drew a large number of participants who enjoyed a lovely day on the grounds with good music and activities for all ages. In September, our 13th Annual Fundraising Dinner was again sold out with a good time had by all. Both events resulted in new levels of funds raised.

It's remarkable what the Foundation and Menucha have been able to achieve over the past few years with your ongoing and generous support. The roof of Wright Hall has been replaced, its chimneys repaired and terrace redone, the kitchen renovated and equipment upgraded to restaurant-level standards. With funding from the Greening campaign, the historic buildings of Wright, Ballard, Boyd/Habitat/Hideaway and Bowman/Greenhouse are now fully insulated. Partial walls and double-paned windows and doors have been installed on Wright Hall's dining porch. The installation of double paned windows in the historic buildings and LED fixtures and lighting in all buildings should be completed in early 2016. We couldn't have done this without your support. Thank you all!

No letter would be complete without my recognizing our grant writer extraordinaire – Joyce Malin, a former president of the Foundation, who continues to provide enormous support for our fund raising efforts. This year, through her efforts, we received grants from four foundations totaling \$160,500 for the Greening Campaign. We wouldn't have had a successful campaign without her assistance. Everyone is delighted to know that we can continue to rely on her support and talent going forward. THANK YOU JOYCE!

Looking ahead we see the need to continue to replace and upgrade Menucha's facilities which are clearly showing the wear and tear of use and age. Built originally as the summer retreat for the Meier family, Menucha is now hosting almost 10,000 guests each year. We must ensure that the facility is able to serve these guests in a safe and comfortable manner.

On behalf of my fellow Board members Susan Hedlund, Jennifer Helmer, Erich Merrill, Chris Rasmussen and Mike Starosciak, I want to thank you for your continued loyalty and support of Menucha. We wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season and a blessed New Year. We value your past support and look forward to continued progress in 2016.

Regards,  
John C. Morris, Jr. President  
Friends of Menucha Foundation



**Friends of Menucha Foundation Board, from left to right: Chris Rasmussen, Spencer Parks, Susan Hedlund, Jennifer Helmer, Mike Starosciak, Erich Merrill, Jr. and John Morris, Jr.**



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## THE COOKTOP—a favorite recipe from the Menucha Kitchen

Marty Kukich, Food Service Manager

### CHOCOLATE CRINKLE COOKIES

Makes 5 dozen

*Enjoy with your favorite hot Christmas beverage, and remember to save a few for Santa Claus on Christmas Eve!*

- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 4 oz. unsweetened baking chocolate, melted and cooled
- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 4 eggs
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar



In a large bowl, combine oil, chocolate, sugar and vanilla. Stir in eggs, one at a time. Stir in flour, baking powder and salt. Cover; refrigerate at least 3 hours. Heat oven to 300°F. Grease cookie sheet with shortening or cooking spray. Drop dough by teaspoonsful into powdered sugar; roll around to coat and shape into balls. Place about 2 inches apart on cookie sheets. Bake 12 minutes or until almost no imprint remains when touched lightly in center. Remove immediately from cookie sheets to cooling racks. NOTE: If watching your cholesterol, substitute 1 cup egg whites for the 4 eggs. If you like peppermint, substitute a pure extract for the vanilla.

## GREENING UPDATE—Tim Kurkinen, Facilities Operations Manager

As the cold weather arrives, we crank up the thermostat and stoke the fireplace in an effort to combat the season's ill temper. For a very long time, the gorge's winter weather has enjoyed the freedom of robbing us (the intrepid denizens of the Columbia River gorge) of our warmth with its powerful east wind and driving freezing rain!

However, as I write this, I am sitting at my desk in a comfortable 70 degree office while its 37 degrees and a blustery 22mph wind outside. What am I getting at? Well, I am thrilled to say that the insulation of the four historic buildings (Wright, Ballard, Bowman/Greenhouse and Boyd/Habitat/Hideaway) is complete! A big thanks to the folks at Bull Mountain for filling in the cracks of these old buildings with insulation. We are cozy!

Our next step, which is currently underway, is to swap out all of the incandescent bulbs and fixtures for LED's. Thanks to all who have been so very helpful with the planning and implementation of the Greening project. We couldn't do it without your gracious support!



## PROGRAM NOTES FOR WINTER/SPRING 2016

### From the desk of Scott Crane, Program Director

Winds howl down the Gorge and tiny ice flakes whisk by the window as I look next year in the eye. As always, my purpose here at Menucha is to offer programs that fulfill our mission: "Enrich lives through hospitality, learning, reflection and renewal." In March I will celebrate 10 years at Menucha. During the past decade, the programs we have put together have had some hits and some misses, but overall we have landed on a mix that suits our center very well. From zero programs in 2005 to fifteen on the books for 2016, the work of ministry through Menucha programs has been beneficial overall, approaching 9% of Menucha's income revenue stream. We hope you will take note of the first quarter's offerings and pick something you would like to be engaged in. Come join us as we launch into Menucha's 10th year of programs here at our Sacred Space for Purposeful Work.



### PASTORS UNPLUGGED

#### "Lessons from a Pilgrimage Life"

with Pastor/Pilgrim Brett Webb-Mitchell

January 31-February 3, 2016

What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus, the Pilgrim God? Why were the earliest followers of Jesus called people of "the Way" (Acts 9:2)? These and other questions will guide our time together. Join us for four days of walking, discussing pilgrim life, reflecting on pilgrimage, washing feet, and celebrating Holy Communion—food for the journey—as people of the Way.

### SCRAP AND SEW RETREAT

February 19-21, 2016 with your host Carla Nilsen

Scrapbooking, quilting, needlepoint, knitting, crochet—you name it, come do it! Join fellow crafters for a great weekend away. No meals to prepare or dishes to wash—let us take care of you! You may opt to come for either one or two nights.



### TRANSITIONAL MINISTRY WORKSHOP

February 22-26, 2016

Facilitators: Scott Lumsden, Heidi Husted Armstrong, Tom Green

#### WEEK 1: ENGAGE

Leading a congregation in adapting to new realities requires more than just the skills of a good pastor. It takes courage, faith, awareness, knowledge, and a good strategy to guide people through the rough waters of change. Through these workshops, you will gain the effective skills and practical wisdom to effectively lead a church to change, renew and grow.

**WEEK 2: EQUIP** Once engaged in an intentional transition, transformational leaders need to be equipped to continue to lead through the rough waters of change. This second four-day seminar further develops the tools of identifying the necessary change, establishing the strategies for change, recruiting a leadership team, dealing with congregational conflict, and sustaining a new culture around renewed identity.



### PRACTICAL CHURCH LEADERSHIP SEMINAR #1:

#### The Times, They Are a Changin'

Saturday, March 19, 2016 9:00 am—4:00 pm with lunch

Facilitator: Rev. Heidi Husted Armstrong

This first of four Saturday seminars will address insights into congregational life from a post-Christendom, post-modern perspective.

- How it's not about you . . . and yet it is about you
- The difference between continuous change vs. discontinuous change; technical problems vs. adaptive challenges
- Getting beyond stuck: finding our congregation's purpose (why are we here?) and vision (what's next?)
- Some stressors and shifts to consider (from membership to a discipleship culture; stewardship as a spiritual practice; from Christian education to Christian formation)

### 6th ANNUAL UKULELE BAND CAMP

with Stu Fuchs, Kevin Carroll, Del Rey and Aaron Keim

March 28-April 1, 2016

Four nights and three days of intense fun, ukulele instruction, and merry music making within the structure of a band, led by some of the ukulele world's finest band members. Band Camp is a truly unique and wonderful experience, and registrations are limited to help provide an intimate and in-depth educational experience. Our goal is to provide you with exciting challenges by learning to be in a band, playing together and taking risks.



### 7th ANNUAL COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE MOUNTAIN DULCIMER FESTIVAL

April 11-14, 2016

#### Instructors:

Larry Conger, 1998 National Mountain Dulcimer Champion (with Elaine Conger as special guest)

Jeff Furman, Mountain Dulcimer Champion at Fiddler's Grove Festival (with Janet Furman as special guest)

This year's festival includes:

- Eight regular workshops + two or more potential bonus workshops
- Daily jams and free time for extras
- Performances each evening by instructors

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR ALL SPRING 2016 EVENTS**  
Go to [www.menucha.org/programs](http://www.menucha.org/programs) for information