



**MENUCHA**

*Sacred Space - Purposeful Work*

# The Menucha Meander



*From left: Mary Ellen Showalter and Mac and Carolyn McCall enjoy the festivities*

## MENUCHA BALL

The 51st Annual Menucha Ball was held on December 5 in the Great Hall. Outstanding food, great fellowship, and an evening of singing and dancing was had by young and old alike. The decorations were spectacular and added a warm glow to the festivities.

A wonderful addition to the evening were the dance lessons with Rachel from 2 Dance with Joy. There were no excuses for not being out on the dance floor!

A special thanks to Trina Denson and her crew for their hard work, which helped to make the evening such a success!

The entire Menucha staff, along with the Menucha Commission and the Friends of Menucha Foundation Board of Stewards, joins in wishing you and your loved ones a blessed holiday season.

### KITCHEN

- Becky Lindsay, Food Service Director
- Dennell Baher
- Austin Bates
- Colin Bradley
- Kayla Dhone
- Pam Jacobs
- Josh Luna
- Jeremy Martin
- Ariel Mock
- Mark Moshofsky
- Tanya Pixley
- Violet Pixley
- Shannen Sasaki
- Jessica Winters
- Charlie Wood



### MAINTENANCE

- Ernie Yoder, Maintenance Supervisor
- Lynn Gibbons, Assistant Supervisor



### OFFICE

- Spencer Parks, Executive Director
- Scott Crane, Program Director
- Jessica Kennedy
- Becky Leamy
- Donna Leamy
- Christine Olsen
- Betty Welch



### HOUSEKEEPING

- Cindy Wheeler, Housekeeping Supervisor
- Betty Jane Wright, Assistant Supervisor
- Alex Gardner
- Jeanette Handley
- Marcia Lunsford
- Denise Troen



### MENUCHA COMMISSION

- Victoria Alley
- Jenny Bergemann
- Bob Blum
- Jon Clemens, Chair
- John Eddins
- George Erdenberger
- Jeff Foley
- Dick Malin
- Erich Merrill
- Diane Murray-Fleck
- Kent Neff
- Merle Olson
- Mike Starosciak
- Phyllis Whittington
- Amy Wood



### FRIENDS OF MENUCHA FOUNDATION BOARD OF STEWARDS

- Erich Merrill, President
- Joyce Malin, Secretary
- Nanita McIlhattan, Treasurer





## GREETINGS FOR THE SEASON Rev. Spencer Parks—Executive Director



Merry Christmas!

We put up the Christmas tree in Wright Hall recently. The Great Hall is really spectacular when all decked out for Christmas. There is a warm, cozy glow that seems to permeate everything. There is something nostalgic about the scene there. I suspect that part of this stems from some of the decorations we use, a few older than myself. Since it is one of the first events of the season, it really jump starts my own Christmas spirit. After the Great Hall is decorated, I am reminded that I need to wish those around me a Merry Christmas.

I am well aware that it's currently not entirely politically correct to wish folks "Merry Christmas." Such tidings originate in my own Christian background. I understand that it is much more politically correct to wish folks "Season's Greetings." We do, after all, operate in a very multi-cultural society. This season has much to offer in the way of greetings. After doing a little "web" research I found the following for the month of December:

- Saint Nicholas Day (Christian) – December 6
- Bodhi Day - Buddha's Enlightenment (Buddhist) — December 8
- Fiesta of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Mexican Catholic Christian) – December 12
- St. Lucia Day (Swedish) – December 13
- Hanukkah (Jewish) -- Sundown on December 11 (ends December 19)
- Las Posadas (Mexican Catholic Christian) – December 16-25
- Christmas Day (Christian) – December 25
- Kwanzaa (African American– December 26 to January 1
- Zarathosht Diso – Death of Prophet Zarathushtra (Zoroastrian) – December 27
- Feast of the Holy Family (Catholic Christian) – December 27
- Ashura (Islam) – December 27
- Holy Innocents (Christian) – December 28

I'm sure I have overlooked a few, but the point remains that there really are a lot of greetings for the season. I personally am not offended when someone wishes me a Happy Hanukkah or a Great Kwanzaa. I know that this person, in his or her own wonderful way, is wishing me the best that their culture has to offer. You see, for me the form of greeting isn't the important part, it's the sentiment of the heart behind the greeting.



We really do live in a wonderfully eclectic world. We have been enriched by all the people who have traveled through Menucha's gates. We hope that we have played a part in enriching their lives as well. So with all that in mind:

From all of us at Menucha: May you and your family have the Merriest of Christmases no matter how you choose to honor this time of year.

*Spencer*



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## REMEMBERING OUR DEAR FRIENDS JEANNE AND JANET

We are saddened by the recent deaths this fall of two special women, Jeanne Nadal and Janet Eastman. Both were enthusiastic and passionate supporters of Menucha and our ministry.



Jeanne was part of the Menucha family from the very beginning. She and her husband Joe became involved in the purchase of Menucha with eight other couples in 1950. She served over 35 years, at a variety of times, on the Menucha Board of Directors—the Menucha Commission—during periods of major construction and changes at Menucha. When she moved from her home into Courtyard Village, she gave Menucha a complete set of Commission minutes, along with nearly every church bulletin or newsletter that mentioned Menucha, much of it from the early days. We will miss her encouraging words, her sweet notes to the staff over the years, and her unwavering love for Menucha.

Janet was a third generation member of First Presbyterian Church. She first heard of Menucha in 1950 through her mother Jennie Morgan. Mrs. Morgan was the hostess at FPC for many years, and came to Menucha in the early years as a volunteer cook. Janet and her husband Ralph were active, involved members of the church. Janet was on the Menucha Commission from 1986-1991, and throughout her lifetime served in nearly every volunteer capacity at the church. She was funny and creative, full of compassion and encouragement to everyone she met, and absolutely loved Menucha. One of her last outings was to Menucha for the First Presbyterian Senior Fall Luncheon on September 29th.



We cherish the memories we have of these two beloved women, and are grateful for their impact on this ministry and our lives. We extend our sympathies to their loved ones, and to their many friends. We will miss them more than words can express.

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### THE COOKTOP A Favorite Recipe from the Menucha Kitchen—Enjoy!

#### ROASTED PROSCIUTTO-WRAPPED ASPARAGUS

*The favorite appetizer of many... served this year at  
First Presbyterian Church's Menucha Ball*

Plan on at least 3 asparagus spears per person, and ¼ pound of very thinly sliced prosciutto for every 30 spears. Buy it already sliced, or ask the deli to slice it for you – it must be done on a slicer.

Trim the tough ends off the asparagus. Boil a pot of water. Drop the asparagus in and cook for about 2 minutes; it will turn a brighter green. Drain immediately and cover with ice water until cold.

Drain and let the asparagus dry. Sprinkle a little olive oil, kosher salt and black pepper over the asparagus and toss to lightly coat. Wrap each asparagus spear in a half-slice of prosciutto.

Place on a parchment lined baking sheet and bake at 375° in a home oven (325° in a convection oven). Check after about 7 minutes and turn pieces over. Continue baking until crisp. Serve warm.



## LOOKING AHEAD: MENUCHA PROGRAMS for 2010

Menucha will celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> 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 2010. Won't you join us?

**Programs listed in bold are planned.** *Italic courses are tentative or being planned.*

DATE TBA:

**HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY RAISE MONEY FOR YOUR CHURCH: A WORKSHOP FOR STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEES, ELDERS AND PASTORS**

*Janice Pettey leads this important weekend retreat for Elders, Stewardship Committees and Pastors about successful stewardship campaigns as well as other fund raising. We have written an application for a grant to cover the cost of this program. We are waiting for their response.*

**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 WATERFALLS**

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.

**MAY 13-16:**

### **PRAYING THE LABYRINTH RETREAT**

Participants will engage several different ways of praying the labyrinth. Indoor, outdoor, making their own labyrinth, walking with purpose, and simply walking it as a spiritual discipline.



**JUNE 11-13:**

### **MENUCHA MOUNTAIN DULCIMER FESTIVAL**

Participants will take part in workshops based on abilities from beginner to advanced as they experience music and harmony together on this old traditional musical instrument from Appalachia. Professional instructors will also give nightly concerts.



## LOOKING AHEAD: MENUCHA PROGRAMS for 2010

**JUNE 14-18:**

### **WAY-POINTS PROGRAM - THE MAJESTIC COLUMBIA**

Guests will experience the grandeur of the Columbia River Gorge from one end to the other. Participants will learn about the history of the Gorge and the building of the "King of Roads" in the second decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, what is now known as the Historic Columbia River Highway. Participants will visit intact sections of the 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. Young and old alike 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.

*POSSIBLY AUGUST 19-22: MENUCHA OLD TIME MUSIC GATHERING*

*Bring your own instrument! For Old Time enthusiasts who would like a few days just to kick back and jam in groups, or for those who wish to learn repertoire or a new style of folk music, this event is for you. Meals and lodging provided.*



**SEPTEMBER 1-3:**

### **PAUL S. WRIGHT LECTURE SERIES**

Rodger Nishioka, popular professor of Christian Education at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, will be at Menucha to engage us with the newest happenings in the life of educational ministries and contemporary culture. Rodger is a gifted speaker, and we look forward to his joining us! Meals and lodging are provided.

*OCTOBER 25-27: FALL 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.*

**NOVEMBER 15-18:**

### **CENTERING PRAYER, SOLITUDE AND JOURNAL WRITING**

Participants will practice Centering Prayer, the silence of solitude and writing journal reflections. This retreat is in response to last year's request from our Fall Silent Retreat participants wanting more of the spiritual disciplines and longer periods of silence.

Each of these retreats will have online registration up and running by January 2010. Please check back at [www.menucha.org](http://www.menucha.org) and click on Programs to find and register for the ones you would like to attend. Registration will also be available by calling our office. In addition, we will post a printable PDF file 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 our upcoming retreats, we encourage you to call and speak with our Program Director, Scott Crane.



## A SENSE OF PLACE

### Erich Merrill - President, Friends of Menucha Foundation

At the First Presbyterian Church Menucha Ball earlier this month, I was enjoying the surroundings of Wright Hall decked for the yule season. I was struck by the thought of the variety of events and programs that have occurred in this hall. Just in the past year, I have seen Wright Hall serve as quarters for a men's recovery group reunion, foundation board meetings, and an Easter sunrise worship service attended by members of different churches. I've attended a Labor Day retreat for all ages, an elegant fundraising dinner, and finally the Menucha Ball, where fellowship, caroling, and dancing made for an evening enjoyed by young and old. If the walls of Wright Hall could talk, they could tell of the large number of other events seen there, the widely disparate objectives of those events, and the groups that have gathered for them.



Each of these events had its own purpose, program, and unique assembly of guests. Yet Menucha, and Wright Hall in particular, imbued a certain sense of centering, stability, importance, and grace that tied all of them together. That may be one of the reasons guests look forward to events that occur at Menucha. While the particular events vary widely, those attending know they will find a place that we describe as sacred space for purposeful work; a place with the calmness of still waters for the turbulent times in our lives; a place where reflection comes easily; a place filled with memories of those no longer with us; a place where one can find a sense of being part of God's larger plan. This is the wonderful paradox of Menucha: each group that encounters it experiences something different from every other group, but all appear to find a sameness that draws them back again, and that cannot be easily found elsewhere.

On behalf of the stewards of the Friends of Menucha Foundation, I hope that you have had a chance to enjoy Menucha this year, that you have the opportunity to return next year, and that you will be blessed during this holiday season with time to be surrounded by friends, family, and those you hold dear.

### WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THOSE WHO HAVE GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED FRIENDS OF MENUCHA FOUNDATION Nov. 16, 2008 - Nov. 15, 2009

**SEVEN GENERATIONS (5000+)**

Elizabeth Price

**OLD GROWTH (2500-4999)**

Nanita McIlhattan

Erich and Laura Merrill

**TOUCHSTONE (1000-2499)**

Fae Marie Beck

Bob Blum and Carol Black

Jon and Arlene Clemens

Tom and Gayle Hughes

David and Janet Leatherwood

Dick and Joyce Malin

Jim Milne

Oregon Community Foundation

Friends of Menucha Fund

**JOURNEY (500-999)**

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Terri Hobbs

Rick and Jill Lee

Mel Levett

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Kent Neff and Linda Wolff

Carol Nielsen-Hood

Spencer and Sarah Parks

Pepper Pollock

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Chuck Shaw

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Gregg and Doris Swanson

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Dick and Phyllis Walker

Amy Wood

Dorothy Wysham

Ernie and Jeri Yoder

*We appreciate the more than 50 donors who have given amounts of less than \$100, and regret that space limitations prevent us from listing each of their names. Thank you!*





# GoodSearch GoodShop

We understand that there are many good causes out there that you would like to support. We hope that Menucha is one of them. As you scroll through the nonprofit organizations that you would like to support, why not dedicate a month or two at a time to each of the organizations you wish to support with free financial donations? For December and January, why not set your GoodSearch/GoodShop tool bar for Menucha Retreat and Conference Center? Then for March and April, move on to support one of your other causes. Return again next winter and search/shop for us. You pay no extra for the items you buy; the merchants donate directly to us. When you search the internet, it doesn't cost you a penny per search, but that is what GoodSearch donates to Menucha each time you perform a search through the GoodSearch toolbar! It is a win-win situation for you, for GoodSearch/GoodShop, and for Menucha. How does it work?

Download the NEW Menucha Retreat and Conference Center toolbar - once added to Internet Explorer or Firefox, each time you shop at more than 1,300 stores (from Amazon to Zazzle!) a percentage of your purchase will automatically be donated to Menucha Retreat and Conference center at no cost to you (and you may even save money as the toolbar provides coupons and deals as well). The toolbar also has a search box; each time you search the Internet, about a penny is donated to Menucha.

Help your favorite cause every time you search and shop (even if you forget to come to the GoodSearch/GoodShop homepage website first) by downloading the GoodSearch/GoodShop toolbar for Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox. Please pass this along to all of your friends. The two minutes it takes to add this toolbar to your browser can make a lifetime of difference! We hope you will join us in support of our ministry and mission here at Menucha simply by shopping or searching online through GoodSearch/GoodShop.

Get the toolbar NOW! <http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/menucha-retreat-and-conference-center>

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## DID YOU KNOW?

- Spencer attended the annual IACCA (International Association of Conference Center Administrators) Conference in October at Lake Yale Conference Center in Leesburg, Florida, "Leadership in Challenging Times."
- In early November we sent three Menucha staff members (Spencer, Scott Crane and Jessica Kennedy) to the annual PCCCA (Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Center Association) conference at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center in Little Rock, Arkansas - "Changing the World through Camp and Conference Ministry." It's always good to connect with familiar faces and make new friends.
- Scott has been grant writing! We have pending an application for a Lilly Endowment fund grant to cover the complete cost of a program that will be offered to the Presbytery of the Cascades and our ecumenical partners for successful stewardship drives for churches. If successful, the grant will allow us to offer this weekend workshop free to participants.

Three other grants have been submitted:

- 1) \$10,000 to continue our management of invasive species. If successful, this grant would pay a volunteer coordinator position part time and bring overall project management.
- 2) \$10,000 for a storm water management system implementation for the roofs over Ballard and Wright, pooling run-off to a rain garden in the parking lot island. If successful, this grant would allow Menucha to divide the storm water run-off from the sewer septic drain field, a current problem anytime we have heavy rains.
- 3) In partnership with Julia West House volunteer workers, development of a community garden for use in our food preparation on site and as an educational tool for program opportunities in the areas of small local gardening, community gardening implementation, food harvest and preparation as well as preservation as well as other volunteer groups. If successful, this grant project would also be under the jurisdiction of the volunteer coordinator; some funds from this grant and the first grant would be pooled to hire this position.



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

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*MENUCHA . . . Sacred Space, Purposeful Work*

## 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.menucha.org](http://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.