



MENUCHA CONFERENCE CENTER
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MENUCHA
Sacred Space - Purposeful Work

The Menucha Meander

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR—MATT and HILLARY WEBSTER

This year, the Menucha staff chose Matt and Hillary Webster to receive the 2018 Menucha Rose Award, which “honors volunteers whose work has helped us grow and bloom.” Typically we present the award to the recipients at the Friends of Menucha Annual Christmas dessert. Since the Websters live in Washington, DC we were unable to give them their award in person. However, those in attendance at the dessert recorded a special message of congratulations to Matt and Hillary, and we were able to surprise them via a phone call.

Matt and Hillary and their two children, Amelia and Teddy, spent six weeks at Menucha this summer during Hillary’s sabbatical from work. They both volunteered many hours helping us in a variety of ways. We cannot express how grateful we are for their time with us! Matt worked with Spencer on computer-related issues, and spent many hours painting Bowman. Hillary was invaluable in helping us set up and organize our first annual Menucha Summer Fair in July.



It was a joy to have the Websters at Menucha and to honor them as our volunteers of the year!

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 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.



THE CHANGING SEASONS—Tim Kurkinen, Facilities Director

The east wind has come home to us again; around here we know it well. Our iconic half-naked trees show just how well acquainted we are with the wind. It’s like an old friend who never fails to show up around the holidays. We always have to be vigilant because it often brings challenges with it, like ice. Power outages and downed trees often follow in its wake. This time of year we keep a constant eye on the thermometer, barometer, and the anemometer—okay, maybe that’s three eyes.

In other news, in February we will have the honor of hosting the annual Maintenance Connection at Menucha, a retreat for maintenance personnel. It is an extension of the PCCCA (Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association) which hosts its own annual conference at various sites around the United States. The Maintenance Connection is tailored specifically for the individuals who manage, maintain, facilitate and volunteer at camps, retreats, or conference ministries. This event is a beautiful blend of fellowship, continued education, hands-on learning, Sabbath, and sharing of ideas. It is an opportunity for these folks to be cared for and treated like guests. We are looking forward to showing off how amazing and beautiful Menucha, the Gorge and Portland really are! We are very honored and blessed to have been chosen to host this retreat. It’s going to be a great time.

Be well and have a Merry Christmas,
Tim



THE GIFT OF OTHERS—Spencer Parks, Menucha Executive Director

It's that time of the year again. People are in stores and shopping online for loved ones. There is a kind of hurried pace that becomes more frenetic as we draw closer to Christmas Day. It's a time of giving and receiving. I particularly like the giving part. A long time ago, I learned that the most precious gift you could give another person was time. There are a lot of folks in my life that live far away, and I don't get to spend much time with them. The holiday season gives me an opportunity to especially show them that they are still very much a part of my life. It's not what the gift is so much that I spent some time trying to be thoughtful in the giving.



Throughout the years there have been a number of people who have given Menucha gifts. Each year we get a few hand-me-downs....odds and ends that are no longer useful for their owners but things that we can make good use of here. Just last week we received a bedside table and a lamp. They will go to replace ones that are showing some pretty severe signs of age and use. Then there are those who give us money (always the right color, always the right size). We generally use these types of gifts to accomplish things that are not in our yearly budget.

Finally there are the rare few people who give us their time. They come to Menucha to be with us, work with us, and support us in our ministry to others. They have worked in our gift shop, split our wood, weeded our gardens, and have helped us in countless and wonderful ways. Not only have they provided a needed service, but their presence among us has been a true blessing to our staff.

John and Brenda Morris are just such people. For years they have been a regular part of our Menucha family almost every Tuesday. Brenda has pulled tons (literally) of weeds from our gardens and has kept our roses looking spectacular. John has mowed several thousand acres of grass and raked several thousand bushels of leaves. He served on the Friends of Menucha Foundation (an organization that helps raise funds for Menucha) and was the President of the Foundation for a number of years. John and Brenda were named our Volunteers of the Year in 2016. To say that we were sad when they moved to Maryland this past August is an understatement. But after being a part of our lives since March 2007, they felt that it would be best to move back closer to family.

To say we were shocked at learning that John had died suddenly on Thanksgiving Day is also an understatement. He had been such a vital and powerful force among us just a few short months before. We will miss him dearly—not just for what he did for us, but for what he came to mean to us. John's gift of time went way beyond the tasks he performed.

We're grateful for all the gifts that come our way. But mostly we are grateful for the people that are a part of our lives. People who have given us their time, whether it has been in service to us or spent with us as guests. In short, we are grateful for you and the time you've spent with us. The staff at Menucha wishes you and your family a joyous, peaceful, and loving holiday season.



WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THOSE WHO HAVE GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED THE FRIENDS OF MENUCHA FOUNDATION November 16, 2017—November 15, 2018

SEVEN GENERATIONS (5000+)

Anonymous
Erich and Laura Merrill
MJ Murdock Charitable Trust
Chris Rasmussen
Kathy Withycombe

OLD GROWTH (2500-4999)

Don and Norma Fales

TOUCHSTONE (1000-2499)

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Tom and Gayle Hughes
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Oregon Community Foundation,
Friends of Menucha Fund
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Ron and Sally Penley
Jean Pletcher
Charles and Ruth Poindexter
Wes Post
Gordon and Mary Priedeman
Rosemary Pullin
Steve Robards
Tim Sercombe and Jane Van Boskirk
Peter and Ann van Bever
Jeff and MaryKay West

JOURNEY (500-999)

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Ukulele Association
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Tim and Suzanne Cusick
Will and Lauren Deming
Paul Ecker and Beth Essex
Carnett and Ruth Falconbury
Jerry and Sally Fish
Derek Foote
Gerry Foote
Deborah Haight
Howard and Fran Hermanson
Richard and Nancy Hopper
John and Sara Hortenstine
John and Emily Jo Jensen
John Kinyon
Lake Grove Presbyterian Church
Rick Lee
Scott Lumsden
Leslie McAllister
Bob and Cindy McSwain

JOURNEY (500-999) cont'd

Lois Moore
Chris Nilson
Brenda Peterson
Chuck Shaw
Steve and Lisa Snodderly
Kristin Solomon
Gayle Starker
Judy Teufel
Pete Vanden Bosch and Marilyn Howe
John Walling and Susan Hedlund
Rich Williams
June Young

NURTURE (250-499)

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Becky DeSpain
Kathryn Feinstein
Carol Gies
Mike and Barbara Goertz
William Hall
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Carl and Peggy Hammond
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Eric Lichtenthaler and Dixie Stevens
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Cameron Webb
Gerard and Ruth Welch
Joe and Phyllis Whittington
Julie Williams
Bob and Evelyn Wulf
Emmie Wurm

HERITAGE (100-249)

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Warren Aney
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Jon and Sally Bates
Kevin and Jennifer Billingsley
Cam and Midge Birnie
Jim and Nancy Boyle
Ken and Sharon Brown
Graham and Sharley Bryce
Bob Bulkley and Joyce MacWilliamson
Claudia Burch
Harold Burden
Pete Chamberlain and Sylvia Bundy
Jim and Pam Clark
Arlene Clemens
Annie Clingman

HERITAGE (100-249) cont'd

John Cook
Christy DuCharme
Linda Dunkijacobsnolten
Bruce Felix and Audrey Schindler
Cindy Finch
Tom and Laura Garnier
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Annalee Purdy
Chris and Joey Razzano
Ellen Richter
Savage Memorial Presbyterian
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Jeff and Lori Sievert
Russell and Jean Smith
Paul Sunderland
Pete and Bonnie Taylor
George Tenney
Elizabeth Walsh
Jim and Ann Walsh
Carolyn Wieden
Dorothy Wysham
YourCause PGE Employee Giving
Sharon Ziel

We appreciate the 55 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 UPDATE

Susan Hedlund, Board President

As the year 2018 nears its close, we on the Foundation Board want to express our gratitude to our many friends and supporters.

It has been a gratifying and productive year. You may remember that in 2017, Menucha experienced the challenges of cold weather resulting in the cancellation of many events, and ultimately the evacuation of the property during the Eagle Creek wildfire. Blessedly, Menucha was spared. Unfortunately, the annual Fundraising Dinner was cancelled during that time. Menucha's supporters rose to the occasion and absolutely continued their support throughout 2018. We exceeded our fundraising goal this year!

Thanks to this generosity, we have been able to pave the entrance road to Menucha, which was in need of repair and restoration. Wright Hall and Bowman (housing our offices) have been painted. Next year we will be replacing windows in Ballard Hall, the deck on Beam House, and painting more of our buildings.

We are moving forward in our efforts to recruit a full time Development Officer to support the Foundation Board with grant writing and other efforts aimed at Menucha's long term financial stability. We always want to be good stewards to our donors and supporters, and visibly demonstrate to all of you that your support directly translates into the care of the sacred space that Menucha provides.

Our Board continues to evolve with the addition of Rick Lee as a steward. Chris Rasmussen, past President and long term member has rotated off the Board; we are grateful for his service. We were saddened to learn of the recent death of past President and long-time supporter of Menucha, John Morris.

Again, our thanks to all of you for your generosity and support of Menucha and its mission. We wish you a blessed, safe, and happy holiday season.



Front row, from left: Rick Lee, Gerry Foote, Kristin Solomon, Susan Hedlund and Erich Merrill.
Back row: Derek Foote, Menucha Executive Director Spencer Parks, and Chris Rasmussen.



THE COOKTOP - a favorite recipe from the Menucha Kitchen

CHEF DAVID BELL'S COUNTRY BISCUITS

Makes 16 biscuits



Note from David: I have often tried to convert this recipe to cups, teaspoons, etc. They never seem to be as good. Measuring by weight is best.

1 pound all purpose flour	1 oz. baking powder
½ oz. salt	7 oz. cold butter
1 oz. sugar	12 oz. cold buttermilk

Sift together flour, salt, sugar and baking powder. Cut in the butter, course mill, don't over mix. Add buttermilk and bring together until just combined.

Lightly press and knead 5 or 6 times. Roll out to ½ inch thickness. Cut with biscuit cutter and place on greased baking sheet so that they touch each other. Bake at 425° for 10-12 minutes. Brush tops with melted butter or cream. Allow to cool, and serve warm with butter and jam.

WHAT OUR GUESTS ARE SAYING ABOUT THEIR TIME AT MENUCHA



Thank you all (office staff, cooks, kitchen staff, housekeepers, groundskeepers, maintenance and anyone else not on this list) for a wonderful family reunion! We all enjoyed ourselves immensely. From the pool, to the basketball court, to the dining room, to our sleeping rooms, and to our meeting room in Creevey—everything was terrific. Kudos to all of you! Your facility is beautiful, and the views are some of the best in the world.

Thank you for hosting our literary retreat, and for welcoming us with your warm hospitality. It is such a well maintained place to stay.

Menucha was a perfect, idyllic location for us. It really set a wonderful tone—location, birdsong, activities, accommodations and food all were great.

Great venue, awesome view and nice informal feel—better than sterile hotels and conference spaces. The family meals and the lack of hotel room ambiance I think made the staff more engaged with one another.



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Menucha.Retreat.Center



Follow us on Twitter
@MenuchaRetreat



FAITH, ART and MUSIC PROGRAMS
Bringing people together at Menucha



TRANSITIONAL MINISTRY WORKSHOP
February 11 –14, 2019

Instructors:
Rev. Scott Lumsden, Rev. Heidi Husted Armstrong and Rev. Eliana Maxim



SCRAP AND SEW RETREATS
February 8-10, 2019
May 10-12, 2019
November 1-3, 2019

Three weekends to craft and create with friends old and new!



12-MONTH INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY COHORT
Begins March 1-2, 2019

and continues via video conferencing and face-to-face meetings through March 2020.

Offered by Menucha and the Office of Christian Formation of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.



We offer quality programs throughout the year for enrichment, continuing education, renewal and reflection in three core areas: Music, Faith, and Art. We hope you'll join us in 2019!



For more information about each program visit our website!
www.menucha.org/programs



MAINTENANCE CONNECTION
February 25-March 1, 2019

This unique conference is intended for Camp Directors, Managers, Maintenance Staff, and all those who are responsible for the upkeep and repair of Christian camps and conference centers.



UKULELE BAND CAMP
March 25-29, 2019

Instructors:
Cathy Fink, Marci Marxer, Aaron Keim, Tracy Kim, Nicole Keim, Nova Devonie, and Matt Weiner

NEW FOR 2019 —Public Concert at the Columbia Grange on March 27!

