



MENUCHA CONFERENCE CENTER
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TRANSFORMATION: ROOM TO RENEWAL
Susan Hedlund, Friends of Menucha Foundation President

As the rain falls softly and steadily outside, it is apparent that a new season is upon us. This also was the case on Sunday evening, September 8th. Many times over the years the waning sun has graced the terrace and our guests through the cocktail hour with music outside prior to dinner. This year, we moved inside to avoid the showers. It seemed a metaphor for life: preparing for the unexpected. It reminds me that many people seek the comfort and solitude of Menucha in part to deal with the unexpected that life may have brought to them.

The rain could not dampen the spirits or the mood at this years' dinner. Emcee Erich Merrill welcomed all of us following the cocktail hour that was punctuated by the lovely guitar music of Michael Hermes. As always, the Menucha staff and volunteers transformed the Great Hall into an elegant dining room. While not able to be in attendance, Honorary Chairs Carol Black and Bob Blum joined us in spirit and support. Thanks to the chefs and wonderful staff and volunteers of Menucha, we enjoyed a lovely dinner and dessert, and the room was filled with lively conversation and energy.



Last years' fundraising focus was to hire a development director in order to ensure that Menucha will continue to be supported for years to come. It was a joyous moment to introduce the person who now fills that role, Cloie Cohen. Working closely with Cloie has been a joy, and it would seem that she has been at Menucha all along. She clearly understands how special Menucha and its purpose is.

This years' theme, "Transformation: Room to Renew", focused on the need to revitalize the bedrooms, particularly in Wright Hall. We were able to envision the possibilities with a video rendering and design concepts created by Sharon Hocking, a Corbett resident and member of the Menucha Commission. Many who have come to Menucha over the years remember the bunk beds and wallpaper of the rooms, now somewhat tired from years of use. The funds raised this year will focus on revitalizing these spaces for our retreat attendees. There is also a symbolic meaning in the theme: many come to Menucha to transform and renew, a theme highlighted through Erich Merrill's remarks.

Our speaker for the evening was Keren McCord, an oncology social worker at OHSU who has been facilitating retreats for women with breast cancer at Menucha for the past five years. Keren's remarks included her history of growing up spending one month each summer at a Jewish summer camp in the North Georgia mountains. She highlighted that as a child, camp nurtured her through difficult times, and offered a level of support and understanding not easily found elsewhere. Now as a social worker working with adults with serious blood cancers, Keren knows well the impact of serious illness on individuals and families. She shared that being able to facilitate retreats at Menucha married her love of helping people with working at camps. "Menucha offers a space to accelerate into intimacy and healing." Keren also shared that Menucha is a Hebrew word, the root meaning 'to rest', to find the energy to restore and renew. She talked about that kind of rest like an "exhale." Menucha provides a space for healing, for an opportunity to exhale, and for creative growth and exploration.

Many of the guests at my table were first time guests. It was an absolute delight to see Menucha through their new eyes: "We had no idea such a special place was here!" One immediately began planning her family reunion, which she hopes to have at Menucha. Others talked about bringing work-related retreats to Menucha, and all marveled at its beauty.

As we enter a season of transformation, I invite all of you to make room to renew personally. I thank each of you for your love and continued support of this sacred space. It is through your generous support that we will continue to offer an opportunity to renew, transform, heal, create, and celebrate life and Menucha. With love and gratitude, Susan

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

Fall 2019

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.

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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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.



CONNECTING WITH ONE ANOTHER

Rev. Spencer Parks, Menucha Executive Director

I came across a picture of a close friend who died recently, in the picture we were building a pasture fence. It brings back such good memories. He and I couldn't have been more different if we had tried. In almost every way possible we were polar opposites, which made shared trips into town opportunities for lively discussions. And yet if either one of us had something come up, we knew that we could count on the other to lend a hand. Close friends are rare finds and are much to be cherished.



Actually in our divisive world today any type of friend is to be cherished. I always think it is such a positive thing when two humans make a meaningful connection. We were able to facilitate just such a connection a month or two back. One of the students that had attended our dulcimer camp contacted us and lamented the lack of dulcimer players in her area (somewhere in British Columbia, Canada). We were able to connect her to another student; they had attended different years and didn't overlap...and yes, we had permission to share contact information. They got together, had a great time playing and have made plans to do it again.

This is probably my favorite part of working at Menucha. I dearly love to see people connect. It's magical to see people discover common interests and common goals. It's even more magical to see them share their gifts and talents with each other so that, together, they might become more than they would be individually. Whether it's teachers passing along information to eager students, or just a few folks combining resources to tackle a thorny problem, it's exciting to see so many examples of synergy unfold right before our eyes.

This is part of the reason we continue to expand the number of programs we offer. We see, as part of our mission, the value of connecting people. It strengthens us as individuals. It strengthens us as a society. It makes our world a better place - a more human place - because it reminds us that we need each other. Together we can be so much more than we can be individually.

So whether you are a member of one of the many groups that have used Menucha for training, planning or education, or you've attended one of our events, we hope that we have provided the space and the means for you to make meaningful connections with others. You see, we don't see ourselves as just a retreat center, but rather we view ourselves as a place where people of all types and varieties come to connect, deepen relationships, and focus on what's really important for our lives together.

Thanks for being part of our Menucha family. We hope to see you and all the other family members again soon.



SUMMER AT MENUCHA—Tim Kurkinen, Facilities Operations Director



We've had a busy year so far, and our staff have been exceptional as always. They work tirelessly to make sure Menucha stays welcoming, productive, and operational.

As I write this the second stage of paving is under way. This time we get to see the exit road, areas around the large gravel parking lot, and staff parking area repaved and made new again. We are all excited to see the transformation with no more potholes!

Improvements like these are only possible because so many people invest in Menucha's future, keeping it sustained and welcoming, able to achieve its mission as a sacred space. More fun and renewing projects are in the works and will begin before the end of the calendar year. This includes the refurbishing of bedrooms, updating décor, paint, and carpets—see more details below.

In the midst of all the projects I am reminded how important it is to take a step back, breathe, and get my bearings. I ask myself these questions all the time: What are we doing, where are we going, and why? This is absolutely essential when beginning projects. If we don't ask these questions at the very beginning and at each and every step along the way, we eventually, and inevitably veer off course. But, knowing why can help set the course and keep us on it. This takes teamwork and dedication. It takes heart.

Thank you to everyone who invests their time, funds, and heart into keeping us on course towards a healthy future. Thank you to our wonderful Menucha staff, friends, volunteers and supporters for absolutely everything you do. I sincerely mean that, and it's an honor to work with you all.



At our fundraising dinner, guests saw a display of the beautiful possibilities for transforming Wright Hall's bedrooms offered by Corbett interior designer and Menucha Commission member Sharon Hocking.

You can see some examples of her amazing work on her website www.sharonhockinginteriors.com

The video she produced for us, along with her design renderings and fabrics are quite inspiring!



THE COOKTOP . . .a favorite recipe from the Menucha Kitchen

INDIAN SPICED CARROT SOUP WITH GINGER

- 1 teaspoon coriander seeds
- ½ teaspoon yellow mustard seeds
- 3 tablespoons peanut oil
- ½ teaspoon curry powder (preferably Madras)
- 1 tablespoon minced peeled fresh ginger
- 2 cups chopped onions
- 1 ½ pounds carrots, peeled, thinly sliced into rounds
- 1 ½ teaspoons finely grated lime peel
- 5 cups (or more) low-salt chicken broth or vegetable broth
- 2 teaspoons fresh lime juice
- Plain yogurt for garnish



Grind coriander and mustard seeds in spice mill to fine powder.

Heat oil in heavy large pot over medium-high heat and add ground seeds and curry powder; stir 1 minute. Add ginger; stir 1 minute. Add onions, carrots and lime peel. Sprinkle with salt and pepper; sauté until onions begin to soften, about 3 minutes.

Add 5 cups broth; bring to boil. Reduce heat to medium-low; simmer uncovered until carrots are tender, about 30 minutes. Cool slightly. Puree until smooth. Add more broth by ¼ cups if soup is too thick.

Stir in lime juice and season with salt and pepper. Ladle soup into bowls. Garnish with yogurt and serve.



**We're always looking for
volunteers. Interested?
Contact Lucinda!
lucinda@menucha.org**



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DEVELOPMENT AT MENUCHA

Cloie Cohen, Development Director



Since joining the Menucha staff in May, I've had the honor and fun of experiencing a full summer season here. From family reunions to large groups who've been coming for over 40 years, to individual retreats and first time non-profit guests - seeing how this special place functions and how hospitality informs every process and interaction with visitors has been inspiring. I also got to meet many people benefitting from Menucha's mission. Altogether, it was the exact guidance I needed.

Additionally, I met with a long list of Menucha stakeholders. These included long-term donors, those who grew up coming to Menucha, group leaders, and residents of Corbett. Basically, to anyone who had a memory to share, a hope for the future of Menucha, or an idea based on their unique perspective, I was all ears. I call them "stakeholders" because each group holds a stake in what we do. They are also invested in the future of Menucha which has informed my work towards building a Development Plan that honors the past while securing a vibrant future for Menucha.

In the coming weeks you'll hear from me directly as we, in partnership with the Friends of Menucha Foundation, launch a new initiative aimed at not only providing for the most urgent needs of this special place, but also growing our donor base and connecting with more of you.

In case you are still wondering what a Development Director actually does, here's a quick synopsis of my plan for the coming year. I will:

- work to nurture relationships with Menucha supporters, to build their trust, and to honor their contributions of time, money, and advocacy
- seek new partnerships with foundations, businesses, and donors
- identify where a donor's personal values might overlap with a strategic need at Menucha
- present donor-centered fundraisers
- keep an eye on our fundraising efforts to be sure they are always pointed towards serving the mission and utilizing Menucha's resources well

If I haven't had a chance to meet you yet, I hope you'll reach out to me: (503) 695-2243, cloie@menucha.org, or stop by the Menucha office.

WE HAVE AN INTERN!

Emily Jessee came to Menucha last year as a Community of Practice participant. During her year in our Community of Practice, Emily discerned that she wants to pursue a career in camp and conference ministry, so she's staying another year to learn the ins and outs of running a place like Menucha. She will spend time in each department learning not just how they do things, but the mission behind it as well. Be sure to stop by the office and say hi to Emily the next time you are at Menucha!





CHECK OUT OUR MENUCHA PROGRAMS!

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

Fall Programs in faith, art, and music at Menucha are almost all full! If you love to craft/ scrapbook/sew with friends, or you are a caregiver in need of some respite and refreshment, or a pastor or educator interested in the Gospel according to John – we’ve got room for you.

ACOUSTIC BLUES MASTERS CONCERT September 28, 2019 Tickets available!

Come hear Blues in the Gorge’s instructors Guy Davis, Mary Flower, Albanie Falletta, and Rich Moore live at the Grange Hall in Corbett. Doors open at 6:00 pm, concert at 7:00 pm. Tickets \$20 (available at www.menucha.org/tickets)



FALL TRANSITIONAL MINISTRY WORKSHOP with Scott Lumsden, Heidi Armstrong and Eliana Maxim October 7-10, 2019 FULL!



LECTIONARY RETREAT/SEMINAR with FRANCES TAYLOR GENCH October 21-22, 2019 Space available!

A one-night fall seminar/retreat for pastors and church leaders about passages in John for Lent and Easter. Frances is professor of Biblical Interpretation at Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia

FALL WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP with Chris Stubbs and Rene Eisenbart October 27-31, 2019 FULL!

SCRAP and SEW CRAFT RETREAT November 1-3, 2019

We’ve added some extra space so we can add a few more people!



CARING FOR CAREGIVERS November 22-24, 2019

A weekend for caregivers - parents of children with special needs, children of parents with special needs. Caregivers need a break. Come for a weekend that will refresh and renew you for caring for your loved one(s).

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN 2020?

Stay tuned for a full calendar of opportunities to explore faith, art and music! In addition to our fantastic music programs in blues, ukulele, mountain dulcimer and bluegrass, we’re just about ready to announce a new musical offering –it’ll be good news!



WHAT A WONDERFUL EVENING OUR FALL FUNDRAISING DINNER WAS!



Spencer Parks, Keren and Craig McCord, and Sarah van Haeften



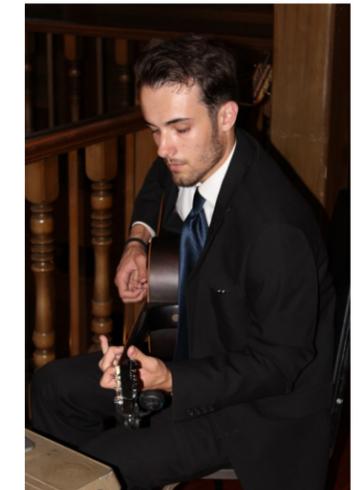
Bonnie Jepsen and Emily Jo Jensen



Menucha Commissioner Chris Rasmussen



Incredible hors d'oeuvres



Guitarist Michael Hermes



Friends of Menucha Foundation Board (l to r): Susan Hedlund, Rick Lee, Derek Foote, Kristin Solomon, Erich Merrill, Spencer Parks. Not pictured: Gerry Foote



From left: Erich and Laura Merrill, Linda and Bob Lucas