MENUCHA CONFERENCE CENTER
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Corbett, OR 97019-0008

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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.

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 97019-0008

Name_____

Address _____

City, State, Zip_____

Email address_____

I would like to receive Menucha communications via:
☐ Email ☐ Regular mail

MAXIMIZING YOUR GIFT

Setting up a **Recurring Gift** can be a great way to make a larger gift than you might be able make at once. $25 over a year adds up to $300, or $100 totals $1,200! Sustaining gifts like this secure the day-to-day operations at Menucha and are greatly appreciated.

Matching Gift programs offer a way to sometimes double your gift as well as an employee benefit you don't want to miss out on utilizing. You might also consider asking family members to match your gift. This is a great opportunity for older generations to talk to younger family members about what is important to them and how Menucha has impacted the family.

If you are 72 or older and must take **required minimum distributions from your IRA**, you can transfer up to $100,000 annually from your IRA directly to Menucha without having to recognize the distribution as income.

MENUCHA
Sacred Space - Purposeful Work

The Menucha Meander

ENRICHING LIVES AND CARING FOR THIS SACRED SPACE

Cloie Cohen, Development Director

"Real generosity towards the future lies in giving all to the present." Albert Camus

Eighteen months into this new reality and we are grounded (in a good way) by the immediate needs of this property and the guest groups who are able to join us. At the same time we continue to look for ways to secure the present, and future of Menucha.

THE HOME AWAY FROM HOME FALL FUNDRAISING DINNERS

We count on the Fall Fundraising Dinner to bring in much-needed and greatly-appreciated funds, so while it can't happen in its usual form, the need is still there. We're hopeful the tradition can continue with smaller house/deck/yard parties. Event hosts can invite people already connected to Menucha or perhaps someone who might be interested in the good work we do - we love new friends as much as long-time ones! On the day of your event, Menucha will deliver a box of goodies to help you offer our renowned hospitality where you are. You can find more information in your inbox, mailbox, and/or you can visit the Friends of Menucha website, www.friendsofmenuchafoundation.org/fall-fundraising-dinner/

VOLUNTEER WORK PARTIES

As valuable as monetary donations, we're grateful to those who can offer their time to Menucha. We currently have two events on the calendar and we would love if you can join us - Saturday, September 25 and/or Saturday, November13. Email me if you can make it, cloie@menucha.org. Alternately, if those dates don't work but you'd like to come up another time, I would love to coordinate that for you.

SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT MENUCHA

A friend of Menucha recently invited us to present to their organization and we were thrilled to have the chance. As people who love us help spread the word about the good work we do, it not only benefits us in the short-term - as guest groups might book a conference with us or an individual may sign up to attend one of our programs – this help also builds for the future in the seeds that are planted. So if you are inclined to spread the word about Menucha, let us know how we can assist you!

PLANNED GIVING

Working with our friends and community on planned giving is a clear path to secure Menucha's future in a deep and enduring way. Menucha has received many remarkable and transformational gifts over the years. Recently, we were delighted to learn of a $20,000 donation coming our way, a disbursement from a supporter's retirement account. In the near future, we hope to establish and grow an endowment fund to generate enough interest income to cover the yearly costs of keeping up this sacred space – all 100 acres and our 12 buildings. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you'd like to talk with me about your plans.

NOT TRAVELING IN A STRAIGHT LINE
Spencer Parks, Menucha Executive Director

I have recently begun to sail again. I learned to sail over 40 years ago and have always enjoyed the sense of freedom and peace that I experience while on the water. Most places I've lived have offered me the opportunity to sail; I even ran a sailing camp for a couple of summers while in seminary. Early on, after moving to Oregon, I was offered a number of opportunities to sail, but the timing never seemed right or I was too busy. The chair of our board was an avid sailor and he invited me out a number of times. Looking back, I now deeply regret not taking the time to go. I not only sacrificed the time sailing but also time that would have been spent with someone I really respected and whose company I enjoyed. It is true that the biggest regrets are not what you've done but what you've let pass by.

One of the first lessons you learn in sailing is that you can't sail directly into the wind. If you try you will, at best, come to a standstill, but will more likely be blown backwards. If you want to go in the direction the wind is blowing you must tack—kind of zig zag course that takes a lot longer, but ultimately gets you to where you want to be. Of course, if the wind is at your back then traveling is much quicker and more direct.

We've not really had the wind at our backs here at Menucha for some time. We were all but closed for months. Reopening has been slow and in fits and bursts; for every two steps we have taken forward, we've had to take one step back. In June it seemed as if the sun would finally rise and we would be able to move back to something more normal, but August and September squashed that hope rather soundly. To put it simply, we've been facing a strong headwind and have had to tack a good bit.

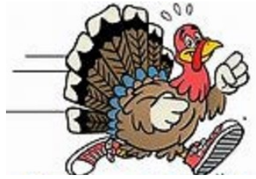
The encouraging news is that we've learned to tack pretty well. A good bit of our success has been due to the support we've seen from folks like you. You've given your money, your time and your prayers and well-wishes, and those have been a crucial factor in our moving forward. We appreciate you being the wind in our sails.

The other key part in our forward progress has been our crew (sorry if I'm overworking the sailing metaphor). I've said it many times in the past, but the last 18+ months have really proven that the staff at Menucha is the best staff I've ever worked with. They are dedicated, work hard, complain little and roll with the punches. They are creative, optimistic, and just plain nice people. They have kept us moving forward despite the strong headwinds of the pandemic.

Just to be clear: we are open and hosting groups. We continue to offer our own programs in the areas of faith, music and art. We are operating under whatever state restrictions and CDC recommendations come our way. This has been a much slower pace forward than we had planned for. The route has not been in any way direct. But we have moved forward…and we will continue to move forward. We do so because we firmly believe that individuals and communities need this sacred space in which they can work, live and grow. We think that time spent at Menucha provides opportunities for people to improve themselves, their health, their spiritual lives, and by doing so are able to set new and fresh courses out into the world. We think we can help individuals and groups navigate difficult times so that when the wind finally changes direction and begins to blow more favorably, we can all move forward together. We hope you'll visit us soon. We invite you to be a part of our journey and hope that we can be a part of yours.

SAVE THE DATE FOR A NEW EVENT AT MENUCHA ON NOV. 25th

It's not a fundraiser, but we are starting a new tradition on the morning of Thanksgiving with a Turkey Trot/Menucha Meander. We'll have hot chocolate and warm cider to enjoy as you walk/run the roads and trails at Menucha.



It will be a fun chance to see friends and meet new people as you move your body before the big meals later in the day. Or if you have family in town or kids, it might be a great opportunity to get them out of the house to burn off extra energy and get a break for the cook. And if you want to just come hang out and enjoy the property, we would love to see you!

Keep an eye out for more details as we get closer to the date, but we expect to begin at 8:30 am on Thursday, November 25th.

WELCOME STACEY AND JASON!

We recently hired Stacey Rogers as our office Administrative Assistant. She'll be working closely with Mary Anne doing bookings, working with our group leaders gathering final information, and greeting guests.

"There isn't anything better than sitting on the bench overlooking the Columbia River Gorge while working with some of the best people on the planet. Most days I could pinch myself that I have this fantastic opportunity. I've lived in Corbett for the last 26 years and served my community in a variety of ways, and always wanted to work where the history and purpose weaved through an organization. Menucha is abundant with people who protect that history and purpose and I'm delighted to be a part of their future.

My husband Vance and I have been married for 26 years and have three amazing children. We've spent a great deal of time working both locally and globally in many ways. We love traveling and meeting people from all walks of life. We lead our family with a mission of kindness, respect, and engagement and love seeing our three girls change the world they live in. I look forward to meeting you at the front desk in the office!"

"I'm Jason Jobé and I've recently been hired as the Assistant Food Service Manager. Allow me to tell you a little bit about myself.

First and foremost I love to cook. I love to see smiles on faces after people have enjoyed what I have prepared for them. I have lived in Hawaii, New Orleans, Reno, California, and Oregon, where I have been now for over 20 years. I worked at Menucha in 2019 which I enjoyed, and it has brought me back again. I connect with the core belief of Menucha, which means renewal in Hebrew. I have also enjoyed the staff of Menucha; everyone was so kind and open-hearted my first stay here that I did not hesitate when I had the opportunity to return. I hope to see you around the beautiful grounds of Menucha where you too can find renewal and peace."

THE COOKTOP - A Recipe from the Menucha Kitchen
David Bell, Executive Chef

SPINACH AND FETA FRITTATA

This frittata is full of fresh spinach and creamy feta cheese. It's healthy, gluten free, and perfect for just about any meal.

2 tablespoons butter
4 cups fresh baby spinach, chopped
12 eggs
¾ cup heavy cream
½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon pepper
6 ounces crumbled feta cheese or any cheese you like

Preheat oven to 350°F. Lightly coat a 9x9" pyrex dish with butter. In a large skillet, heat butter over medium heat. Add spinach and cook until wilted. Season with salt and pepper if desired. In a large bowl, whisk eggs, cream, salt and pepper. Fold in cooked spinach and feta cheese. Pour mixture into prepared pan.

Use a large baking dish and set pyrex inside, and pour in enough hot water to cover halfway up side of pyrex dish. Bake for 45 minutes, or until firm and toothpick inserted in middle comes out clean. Remove from oven and let cool in water bath for 10 minutes before cutting. Serve immediately.

FACILITIES UPDATE - Tim Kurkinen, Facility Operations Director

The renovations in Wright Hall have been very satisfying and we've received a lot of positive feedback from our guests.

Over the next few months we will continue projects like painting Ballard and Boyd, refreshing furniture, and renovating the entryway in Wright Hall.

With kids back in school (two of my little ones included) I am reminded that winter is just a season away. There is much to do to prepare the grounds and buildings for the wind and the cold, but first comes my favorite season, autumn.

Ballard Hall

"When summer opens, I see how fast it matures, and fear it will be short.
But after the heats of July and August, I am reconciled,
like one who has had his swing, to the cool of autumn."
— Ralph Waldo Emerson

EXCITING NEWS AND AN INTRODUCTION

We're thrilled to share with you that the Friends of Menucha Foundation has been awarded $125,000 from the M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust. The grant will be disbursed over three years and is designated to help fund a new role on the Menucha staff – our first Business Manager!

The M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust has been supporting the growth of Pacific Northwest nonprofits since 1975. They serve individuals, families and communities across the Pacific Northwest, including Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington, through grant making, enrichment programs and convenings that strengthen the region's educational, social, spiritual and cultural base in ways that are innovative and sustainable. The Trust has granted over one billion dollars since its founding.

Menucha has been fortunate to receive previous grants from the M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust totaling $198,000. These funds helped to replace the roof on Wright Hall as well as "greening" projects around the property including new windows and energy efficient mechanical systems.

And now, we're excited to introduce Menucha's new Business Manager – Sarah Fitz.

Sarah holds degrees in Business Administration and Sociology and has 15 years of experience in banking, bookkeeping, and business administration. Sarah's role will be developed over the coming months, but we expect that she will primarily focus on assuming responsibility for Menucha's finances, ensuring impeccable accounting policies and procedures, safeguarding our non-profit status, and managing our human resources.

This position is essential as Menucha moves forward in the restructuring of our relationship with First Presbyterian Church, and we're so excited to have found someone as qualified and lovely as Sarah. We hope you'll stop by the office and welcome her the next time you are at Menucha!

STAY CONNECTED!

Like us on Facebook
Menucha.Retreat.Center

Follow us on Instagram
menucharetreat

REMEMBERING CAROLYN McCALL

Carolyn McCall, 30 year co-administrator of Menucha with her husband Mac, and for whom our McCall House is named, passed away August 25, 2021.

Executive Director Spencer Parks summed up her importance to Menucha by saying, "Carolyn's spirit of genuine hospitality that infused Menucha while she was here will continue to be her legacy."

Donna Leamy, Menucha's office manager, recalled how she enjoyed working alongside Carolyn. "I learned so much from watching Carolyn interact with others. She was an excellent listener, asked good questions, and was patient with everyone. I watched Carolyn treat everyone with respect, a warm smile and an encouraging word. She truly loved Menucha and enjoyed getting to know our group leaders. Many became friends of hers throughout the years."

It is difficult to create a short summary of Carolyn's life because she did so much. She was born in Illinois in 1938. She loved learning all her life, obtained through formal school, teaching, individual study, and a variety of life experiences, which she had in abundance. Among many other experiences as a youth Carolyn was active in Girl Scouts, and a top student in her high school class in Moline, Illinois. She met her husband Mac at Grinnell College in Iowa. She worked in Migrant Ministry one summer during college, taught beginning English at the American College for Girls in Arnavutkoy, Turkey, taught young boys in Elgin State Mental Hospital in Illinois, taught preschool in Chicago, did medical interviews for Kaiser Permanente, and worked at Menucha Retreat and Conference Center for 30 years, nearly all of that time as the Assistant Director.

She also co-led a bicycle group which pressured the two states and the federal government into placing a previously unplanned-for bike and pedestrian lane on the I-205 bridge between Oregon and Washington.

We and so many others will miss you. Thank you for the ways you shaped this place and the lives of those to whom you ministered.

Carolyn with Mac, son David and daughter Katherine

FALL 2021 PROGRAMS AT MENUCHA
Lori Nance, Program Director

We are here! And we'd love to see you here. Join us for smaller classes and enjoy the benefits that these classes will offer.

FALL WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP WITH REBECCA SENTGEORGE
October 25-28, 2021

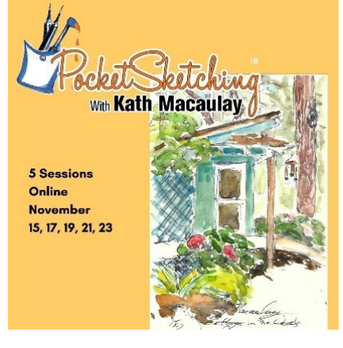
Come and enjoy an exploration of media and techniques, texture, and design principles over three days. Loosen up and make intuitive choices based on knowledge rather doing lots of preliminary sketches and intensive preplanning.

FALL SCRAP AND & SEW

Due to some openings in the calendar, we're adding another Scrap & Sew retreat! Check our website for the date and registration. Looking for some online gatherings? Stay tuned and check our website frequently as we will have several ways to do things to make your heart happy!

POCKET SKETCHING WITH KATH MACAULAY
5 ONLINE SESSIONS
November 15, 17, 19, 21, 23
2:00-4:00 pm Pacific Time

Registration available on our website.



Find information about all of our programs at www.menucha.org/programs