



MENUCHA

Sacred Space - Purposeful Work

The Menucha Meander

Fall Fundraising Dinner at Menucha

Sunday, September 11 at 5:00 pm

Our event will look a little different this year - and we hope you'll love it!



We are excited to get to host this annual event once again at Menucha! Here's what to expect:

- Tickets will be \$100 per person - no change over over previous years.
- You can still purchase a table of eight and fill it with friends, family, colleagues, or neighbors.
- Instead of Wright Hall, the event will be under a beautiful tent on the grounds adjacent to our staff parking lot, and the bathrooms in Boyd Hall will be open. Moving the event outside allows us to include more of our community members, and also alleviates concerns should there be a Covid spike in September.

- We'll have a cocktail hour as in years past, a time to meet up with friends old and new.
- Food will be delicious as always, and a buffet instead of a plated dinner. Perhaps barbecue? We're talking with our talented kitchen staff as we speak.
- Attire will be slightly less formal than the cocktail dresses and suits/tuxes of events in the past.
- You'll hear about how we meet our mission to enrich lives, and how you can be a part of it all.

And finally, you'll get the opportunity to offer your financial support for this sacred space. Tickets should go on sale the first week of August - keep an eye out for your invitation!

2022 ANNUAL MENUCHA BOARD RETREAT

Recently, the Menucha Board of Directors spent a weekend undertaking the same purposeful work our retreat and program guests embark on. While enjoying the hospitality offered at Menucha the board and staff gathered to renew their sense of community, to reflect on the last year, and develop our plans for the coming one. We opened the weekend with the first of many important discussions regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion. The staff presented department updates on development, programs, and business. Together the board and staff discussed the strategic priorities of stabilizing Menucha's finances and each committee outlined goals for the coming year. This annual board retreat is just one of the ways the staff and the board fulfill our ongoing commitment to meet Menucha's mission, protect its assets, and grow its resources. The staff is grateful to our board member volunteers for their dedication at the retreat and throughout the year.





. . . JUST LIKE RIDING A BIKE

Reverend Spencer Parks, Menucha Executive Director

I was about six years old when I got my first bicycle. It was bright red with a white seat. The tires were only 12 inches in diameter and they were solid rubber, which made riding on our gravel driveway a bone jarring experience. There were training wheels too, but they only stayed on for a couple of months. I'd spend hours doing laps on our driveway (which couldn't have been more than 150 feet long). I still remember the thrill I got when I was given a "real" bicycle. With 24 inch pneumatic tires, I was riding in style (albeit on the same 150 foot gravel driveway). While I'm not an avid cyclist, I still like to ride from time to time. My wife and I often rent bikes while on vacation. It's a great way to spend the day and see the sights. I've even ridden bikes in Uganda, much to the amusement of the students at the school where we were staying as well as the local inhabitants. The nice thing about bike riding is you can pick it up pretty quickly even if it's been a while since your last ride. It is, as the old saying goes, just like riding a bike.



We've not seen too many guests at Menucha over the past few years; the pandemic didn't allow for many folks to visit us. While things have gotten better, it is only been in the last month or so that we have returned to any level that represented a pre-pandemic capacity for us. One of our board members at their recent retreat here commented that it was good to see the parking lot full again. I concur. It's nice to have the pleasant buzz of business about the place again. Even though it's been a while, the staff and I are falling back into familiar patterns . . . kind of like riding a bike.

What we are discovering is that it's not the bike we remember riding. The pandemic has made profound changes on us as a society and on us as a facility. We are having to discover new ways to make this bike go. We understand that some of our challenges are ones that are being faced by almost every business. For example, we're a bit understaffed. Even in the best of times, it's been hard to find people to work in the various areas of Menucha. East Multnomah County isn't overly populous. Couple that with the price of gas and it makes finding new staff people difficult. (One of the many reasons we are grateful for our volunteers. They not only save us money, but they often provide labor that we would otherwise not have. You should consider volunteering some time with us).

We're still finding the road a bit bumpy as well (reminds me of my gravel driveway). Many groups are still nervous about meeting in person and being around others; we understand this. We've had to develop new protocols about dealing with illness at Menucha (not just Covid). We're strictly adhering to state health guidelines, and even then we're being a bit conservative (we require our food service staff to wear masks while doing food prep).

Despite the challenges and the bumpy ride, we still love doing what we do. It has given us all a lift to see smiling faces, serve incredible meals, and feel like we are on the road again.



We hope that you'll join us and spend some time with us soon. Whether you are coming with a group or attending one of our outstanding programs, we think you'll find things just as heartwarming, familiar and rejuvenating as ever.

It's just like riding a bike . . . you never forget.



HAPPY RETIREMENT, LYNN!

Lynn Gibbons started working Menucha in 1986, and retired on May 15 of this year. We are going to miss his kind caretaking of the grounds, the guests and our staff.

His connection to Menucha is strong. He married into the Perry family; George Perry Sr. was hired by Julius Meier in 1922 to head the gardening staff after purchasing the property. George designed and constructed the extensive estates grounds; the legacy he created is still very much in evidence today.

We have learned so much about Menucha's history through Lynn as he has shared stories and photos from George Perry's son (also George) who still lives here in Corbett.

Lynn's handprint is everywhere on the property, from the plants and trees to the fruit espalier to the rockery. He has lovingly tended the roses and garden beds, led groups of volunteers to help eradicate invasive species, and has been an invaluable support to Ernie and Tim over the years, as well as each of us on staff. His gentle spirit and his willingness to always lend a helping hand will be missed!

In Lynn's own words:

" I keep working at Menucha because I like the people I work with and the guests, especially the returning guests. This place is special because there is the possibility of something greater here. People come for a purpose, often transformational, and they are often successful; they leave here with something greater. The way Menucha's landscape is put together, the buildings, the elements of the gardens, the bones, they all create a feeling that really affects people. The volunteers return over and over. I'd be at a loss without them. I think Dr. Wright said in an interview that Menucha was created in response to the materialism after the war. It was a place to come to get away from telephones, a retreat. In the same way, when the Meiers had it, it was a place for the family to come and be together as a family. That was the blessing of the Perrys—they could take care of Menucha so Julius didn't have to worry about it when he wasn't there. It's the same today: people come and the ministry is the meals and the buildings and the grounds."

Thank you, Lynn, for everything. We wish you well in your retirement, and that you will visit us! Please know that we treasure the impact you've had on each of our lives. We think of you often as we walk the grounds and take in the beauty that surrounds us.





2022 PROGRAMS AT MENUCHA Lori Nance, Program Director

Join in an upcoming program at Menucha! All the details and registration are available on our website.



BLUES IN THE GORGE OCTOBER 5-9, 2022

Featuring Mary Flower, Sunpie Barnes, Eric Lugosch and Mamie Minch. These world-class players are great teachers.



Are you a music lover and not a musician? Come to the Bluesmasters Concert on October 8. Details and tickets: www.menucha.org/tickets

HARMONICA NORTHWEST OCTOBER 13-16, 2022

Featuring Joe Filisko, Kim Field, Andrew Alli and Ross Garren. Want to see these guys in action? The public concert will be October 15th.



Ross Garren

Kim Field

Joe Filisko
Eric Noden

Andrew Alli

Artists, we have programs for you too! Tap into the creativity and let it fill your heart with the joy and challenge of putting brush to canvas and continuing those craft projects you love.



FUNDAMENTALS OF GOOD PAINTING SEPTEMBER 16-18, 2022

"I think there are many, many ways to communicate what you want to say through a painting. I will show you some of the techniques and processes that work for me, but more importantly, I will show you how to develop and adapt your own techniques and processes which suit you."

FALL WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP WITH WINNIE GIVOT OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 2, 2022

Winnie Givot is a skilled watercolor artist and teacher. Her art reflects her love of beauty and her understanding of its importance in our lives. Whether a face, a flower, a mountain, Winnie connects with and finds meaning through beauty, which then fills her art.





ENRICHING LIVES. BUILDING COMMUNITY. OPPORTUNITIES FOR REFLECTION AND RENEWAL. THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS IN OUR FAITH, ART AND MUSIC PROGRAMS.

**SCRAP AND SEW CRAFT RETREAT
November 4-6, 2022**

We have 2 buildings for this retreat! Come join the fun; bring your projects-in-progress and enjoy the company of fellow crafters. Let us do the cooking and cleaning—you can finish all those Christmas/holiday gifts!





2022 UPCOMING EVENTS AT MENUCHA

- **Fall Fundraising Dinner** Sunday, September 11, 5:00 pm
Tickets available starting in August
- **Volunteer Work Parties***
Saturday, September 24 9:00 am - noon Saturday, October 15 9:00 am - noon Saturday, November 5 9:00 am - noon
- **2nd Annual Turkey Trot** Thursday, November 24th 8:30-10:30 am
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, meet new people, and move your body before the big meal later in the day.



*RSVP for the work parties to cloie@menucha.org, or reach out with questions.

FACILITIES UPDATE

Tim Kurkinen, Facility Operations Director

Our facilities and housekeeping staff have been busy attending to a full schedule of guest groups, with hospitality being one of the main ways that we meet our mission to enrich lives. It is wonderful to have guests back on the property!

In addition to our busy day-to-day, we also are wrapping up two major projects. The first is that we were finally called to replace the main furnace for Wright Hall. Luckily, we got to partner with a local company, Honke Heating and Air Conditioning, who did a stellar job. Although we won't need heat for the near future, guests in Wright Hall will surely appreciate a cozy building this fall.

The second project was centered on Ballard Hall. Through a generous donation from the Johnson family, we were able to replace the front walkway and upgrade the ramp and steps to Ballard. Next comes landscaping and finishing touches that will help Ballard relate to the beauty of Wright Hall, that we're sure our guests will enjoy. Our thanks to Kira Iwasaki who volunteered her time on the design, and our contractors Schommer and Sons who did such a fantastic job, and were a pleasure to work with.



Thank you to all of our generous donors, supporters, and partners—we are grateful for you!

*"Appreciation is a wonderful thing.
It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well." - Voltaire*



THE COOKTOP - A Recipe from the Menucha Kitchen

Jason Jobé, Executive Chef

DOUBLE RICH CHOCOLATE COOKIES

Makes 25 large cookies

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 2 1/2 cups flour | 3/4 cup sugar |
| 1/2 teaspoon baking soda | 1 cup butter |
| 1/4 teaspoon salt | 3 eggs |
| 1/2 cup cocoa powder | 2 teaspoons vanilla |
| 1 cup brown sugar | 2 cups chocolate chips |



Preheat oven to 325°. Combine flour, baking soda, salt and cocoa powder in a bowl and set aside.

Cream butter until soft and creamy. Add sugars and mix well. Add eggs and vanilla; beat until light and fluffy. Add flour mixture, a little at a time, until just combined. Add chocolate chips, until just combined.

Bake on parchment-lined cookie sheets for about 14 minutes. Enjoy!

FROM OUR GUESTS

“Thanks to all of you for making our recent retreat such a success! Our group fell in love with Menucha. We appreciate the care you all put into this special place. Warm wishes, and we hope to be back soon!”

“I appreciate it very much, all that you did to make my retreat at Menucha possible this weekend. What a blessing it was! May the Lord return the blessings to you in abundant ways.”



“The warm reception, wonderful food and peaceful dynamic of your place made my stay there a truly restful soul balm!

“This retreat was so special – it made me really think about what’s important in my life. My life is filled.”

“Impossibly beautiful. I haven’t experienced serenity like this in quite some time.”

STAY CONNECTED!



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Menucha.Retreat.Center



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menucharetreat



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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:

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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.