



**MENUCHA**

*Sacred Space - Purposeful Work*

# The Menucha Meander

## SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR 19th ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER "The Adventure Begins" Sunday, September 10, 2023

We are excited to host this annual event once again at Menucha. This is our first year as a new organization, and we hope you will come and help us celebrate! Here's what to expect:

- Tickets will be \$100 per person - no change over previous years.
- You can still purchase a table of eight and fill it with friends, family, colleagues, or neighbors.
- Instead of inside Wright Hall, the event will be under a beautiful tent on the paved surface directly in front of Wright Hall. The ground will be smooth and level, and the bathrooms will be conveniently located steps away in Wright. Guests will drive down the entrance road, continue down the road around the Barn to the large parking lot.
- 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! Attire will be dressy casual.
- You'll hear about how we meet our mission to enrich lives, and how you can be a part of it all. And you'll get the opportunity to offer your financial support for this sacred space.

Tickets will go on sale the first week of August - keep an eye out for your invitation. We are looking forward to being together, and hope you will be able to join us for this special evening at Menucha!





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## A REFLECTION

### Reverend Spencer Parks, Menucha Executive Director



I just finished my 19th year as the Executive Director of Menucha. Frankly, it seems as if I arrived just a year or so back. The time has passed quickly, partly because the work has been enjoyable and rewarding. If you had asked me when I started what my long-term goals were for Menucha, I would have had a long and ambitious list. After 19 years, only a few of those goals have come to fruition. That's not a disappointment to me; it just makes me thoughtful.

Probably the most visible goal that's been accomplished is that we now offer our own programs. We started doing that about 16 years ago. That part of what we do has grown and transformed into a major part of who we are at Menucha. The programs we offer in faith, music and the arts have received national attention (some even international attention). They have grown considerably and we continue to expand them each and every year.

There are a number of other accomplishments. To be honest, they are not the ones I had in mind when I started here. But they have been and are important milestones in the life of Menucha. I can remember a number of conversations that I had with Merritt McCall, my predecessor. There were a lot of gains made when he and Carolyn were here that were not in his initial game plan either. I suspect that's the way it goes with all directors of facilities like Menucha. We go in with bold ideas but in the end, the facility and the circumstances give us our ultimate direction. Each of us, in our own fashion, move things forward and in doing so remain faithful stewards of the facility to which we are entrusted.

I am sure that's the way it will be with the next director of Menucha, who we hope will be here about this time next year. I announced my retirement to our board a few months ago. They have formed a search committee and are beginning the process of recruiting the next Executive Director for Menucha. I look forward to introducing you to that person when we find them. As things stand now, I'll hang around for a few weeks after they arrive just to make the transition smooth.

While I'm proud of the work we've done here over the past number of years, I do feel that it's time to give the leadership of this place to someone else. Menucha needs someone with a fresh pair of eyes to see what might lie ahead. Someone with new ideas that better address what's happening in our world today. And, frankly, someone younger that has the drive to make all those things happen. While I don't currently have one foot in the grave, I do realize that I'm not as young as I used to be. Someone younger would be very good for Menucha.

Sarah and I plan to still live in the area. We have a small farm that needs a lot of TLC. We welcomed a new granddaughter into our lives a few weeks ago—our first grandchild. She and her family live close by, and we look forward to being a part of her life. I have more hobbies than I care to confess. In short, the list of things that will keep me busy ensures that I'll not be bored.

While my time at Menucha is fast coming to a close, I am excited about what lies ahead for us all. We have an outstanding board of directors and I'm confident that they'll make an excellent choice. As my crystal ball broke some time back, I can't see the future. I can tell you, however, that the heart of Menucha will continue. That hasn't changed for the last 73 years. We will always be a magical place where hearts and minds come together, where you feel as if you've come home and where the cares of the world can be released, at least for a little while.

I hope you can stop by my office and visit before I leave, and I hope that you will continue to enjoy all that Menucha offers for many years to come.



## THE COOKTOP - A RECIPE FROM THE MENUCHA KITCHEN

Sergio Calvillo-Ruelas, Assistant Food Service Manager

### ARROZ CON LECHE (Mexican Rice Pudding)

A simple, delicious recipe  
that takes only 30 minutes to make

1 cup rice  
4 cups milk  
½ of a cinnamon stick

½ cup brown sugar  
¼ cup maple syrup



Cook rice with 2 cups of water according to instructions on package.

Add milk, cinnamon stick, brown sugar and maple syrup into a pot. Bring to a simmer while whisking sugar and maple syrup until sugar is dissolved.

Add cooked rice back into the milk pot. Let simmer for 15-20 minutes or until liquid is semi-thick. Stir occasionally so the mixture doesn't stick or burn.

Plate with extra powdered cinnamon on top and enjoy!



### KIND WORDS FROM OUR RECENT GUESTS

Thank you for creating and maintaining such a wonderful place to gather and make art. Menucha is our sacred creative space!

Menucha has been a yearly highlight of mine since 2007. I'm so grateful to come to this place of peace and beauty. Thank you for what you do to keep that happening!

You keep the wheels rolling smoothly. We appreciate you!

We look forward to our week at Menucha, and have been coming since 1984. Thank you for making our time here at Menucha so special.

Thank you for all you've done, post pandemic, to keep things going for our annual special retreat here at Menucha. Appreciations to each of you for being here making this week possible.

### STAY CONNECTED!



Like us on Facebook  
Menucha.Retreat.Center



Follow us on Instagram  
menucharetreat



## PROGRAMS AT MENUCHA - Lori Nance, Program Director

When we engage in building community here at Menucha, we do so intentionally through things that bring people together—art, music and faith. The need for human connection is something everyone feels. We hope you'll find a place to connect during one of our upcoming programs.

### CREATIVE ARTS COMMUNITY

Week 1: July 30-August 5, 2023

Week 2: August 6-12, 2023



Choose a week and come spend 6 nights and 7 days at Menucha. Imagine making art, swimming, laughing, learning, and soaking in all the goodness of Menucha while we do the cooking and cleaning!



### FUNDAMENTALS OF GOOD LANDSCAPE PAINTING with Michael Orwick August 14-17, 2023

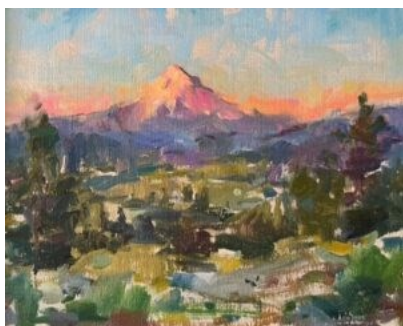
Join award-winning artist and popular instructor Michael Orwick for this 3-day painting class, designed for oil and acrylics. Michael's painting classes are open to all levels of painting experience.

### BOTANICAL BOUQUETS IN COLORED PENCILS

Taught by DOROTA HABER-LEHIGH

August 18-20, 2023

You'll grow your drawing skill in this class by seeing Dorota's drawings and demonstrations of how to approach drawing from observation using live plants and various colored pencil techniques. Although drawing in realistic form will be the focus, individual styles will be encouraged and celebrated. All levels are welcome.



### EXPRESSIVE ALLA PRIMA PAINTING taught by JOANNE KOLLMAN September 6-9, 2023

Skill level: All levels and beginner friendly

Media: Oil and gouache

Come spend an early fall weekend in the Columbia River Gorge learning with Joanne. She will help you overcome fears and have fun while you are learning to see as a painter while mastering various levels of color mixing, value and temperature relationships, and expressive mark-making. Menucha's grounds will provide much to observe and paint.





ALL THE DETAILS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE  
[www.menucha.org/programs](http://www.menucha.org/programs)

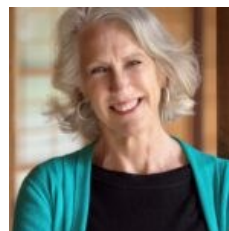


**10th ANNUAL BLUES IN THE GORGE September 27-October 1, 2023**

Wow, what a way to celebrate our 10th Annual Acoustic Blues guitar camp! Mary Flower, Guy Davis, Lea Gilmore, Mamie Minch and Kristina Olsen! There are still a few spaces available to come and learn and play. OR join us for the **Blues Concert on September 30 at 7:00 pm** at the Grange Hall in Corbett. Concert tickets available beginning September 1.

**“DO YOU HAVE KIDS?” LIFE WHEN THE ANSWER IS NO  
October 12-15, 2023**

This retreat will be led by international, award-winning author of *Do You Have Kids? Life When the Answer is No*, Kate Kaufmann. She advocates for better understanding of the childless/childfree demographic in person, on air, and in print.



**MAKING A SCENE IN WATERCOLOR with STEVE KLEIER  
October 16-19, 2023**

There is something magical about painting watercolor scenes of travels and favorite places. Steve will do a morning and an afternoon demo both days; after that, he will be available for individual instruction as you work. Learn and expand your skills with this fun and inspiring class.

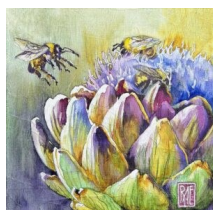
**2nd ANNUAL HARMONICA NORTHWEST  
October 26-29, 2023**

We’re doing it again! The humble harmonica is an instrument with an impressive range of expression. Artistic director Kim Fields, has gathered an all-star group of teachers to dig into the art and artistry of playing the harmonica.



**HARMONICA CONCERT October 28, 2023** at the Corbett Grange

**SPECIAL EFFECTS: PAINTING IN WATERCOLOR WITH ACRYLIC TEXTURE  
Taught by RENE EISENBART October 30-November 2, 2023**



Build your skills and your imagination in this lively, supportive workshop with Rene, designed to promote “out of the box” thinking!

Skill: any level

Media: Mixed media, watercolor with acrylic grounds and mediums



## FIREWISE

### Tim Kurkinen, Facility Operations Director

FireWise is a national program that supports community lead wildfire preparedness by offering a framework for involvement and education and reducing the impacts on people and homes. The threat of the 2017 Eagle Creek fire spurred Corbett residents into action and in early 2023 Corbett was approved as a FireWise community.

Menucha has hosted many community events over the last year in partnership with state and local organizations including Corbett Fire District #14, Oregon State Fire Marshals, Oregon Department of Forestry, US Forest Service and East Multnomah County Soil and Water Conservation District.

In my position at Menucha and as a member of our Corbett FireWise board, I get to apply my knowledge and experience in the community. I can proudly say that this is the kind of bridge building and maintenance that we believe in at Menucha and in Corbett.

For more information about the FireWise program in Corbett, you can visit their website: [www.corbettfirewise.org](http://www.corbettfirewise.org)







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## THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

Our Board of Directors held their annual retreat in June at Menucha. It was a great weekend of team building and planning for the year ahead. This group of dedicated volunteers has worked diligently in helping us prepare to become our own separate non-profit organization. In addition, a search committee from this board has begun the process of recruiting the next Executive Director for Menucha. We appreciate each of them for their guidance and support, and are grateful for the hard work they are doing on our behalf!



Pictured front row, from left: Tom Hughes, MaryKay West, Rick Lee, Kelly White  
Second row, from left: Erich Merrill, Chris Grewe, Steve Snodderly, Derek Foote,  
Keren McCord, Jon Bates, Susan Hedlund and Gordon Kennedy  
Not pictured: Jeff Foley, Joey Razzano



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT MENUCHA

As valuable as monetary gifts, volunteer efforts are essential to Menucha's well-being. Whether you join us for a work party, help welcome guests to a Menucha program, or schedule regular times to work on the grounds, every hour you contribute makes a difference! We welcome individuals, groups of all sizes, and all skill sets. If you have a special gift or skill you'd like to offer, please let us know.



**MENUCHA CONFERENCE CENTER**  
 PO Box 8  
 Corbett, OR 97019-0008

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*SACRED SPACE, PURPOSEFUL WORK*

*Our mission is to enrich lives through hospitality, learning, reflection and renew-*

## 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  
**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.