



The Menucha Meander



A Year of Care, Connection, and Forward Movement

All of us at Menucha hold deep gratitude for what was made possible through the support of our community. This past year was one of growth and meaningful impact, rooted in care for our guests, stewardship of this sacred place, and progress toward fulfilling our mission to offer space for connection, reflection, and renewal.

Menucha welcomed **183 guest groups and 3,986 guests**. Each group arrived with its own purpose, and together they brought Menucha to life throughout the seasons. Menucha also hosted **21 programs serving 789 participants**. We also piloted two new programs, Time & Space and The Last Hurrah of Summer, as part of our ongoing commitment to responding to the needs and rhythms of our community.

Investments in facilities helped ensure that Menucha remains a safe and welcoming environment. The **Survivor's Path** was completed, opening a new way to experience the property, and **new washers and dryers** were installed to support our hardworking housekeeping team. We also purchased two **new trucks** for facilities operations, improving efficiency and safety across the grounds. In a step toward sustainability, **Menucha was awarded a PGE Drive Change Grant**, allowing us to order an electric vehicle and charging infrastructure. This investment supports both environmental responsibility and operational health.

Volunteers showed how much love and care this community holds for Menucha. Their work included installing the **Peace Pole**, restoring memorial benches, completing erosion mitigation along the Rim Trail, and advancing a **comprehensive landscape plan** to guide future signage and landscape enhancements. Volunteers also began **restoring the labyrinth**, with the center mosaic repair continuing into the year ahead. These projects are visible reminders that many hands and hearts steward Menucha.

Behind the scenes, Menucha continued to build strong systems to support long-term sustainability. The Business Office completed a **conversion to the latest accounting software**, improving clarity, efficiency, and transparency. Development efforts **raised nearly \$250,000 from 227 donors, while 62 volunteers contributed 810 hours of service**, an expression of generosity and belief in Menucha's mission.

The coming year holds exciting and necessary work. We will welcome the delivery of the electric vehicle and charging stations, install a new generator for Wright Hall, continue labyrinth restoration, and move forward with new signage and landscape improvements. Planned projects also include a pool plumbing circulation upgrade, deck repairs at Beam, Ballard, and the Hideaway, and a native wildlife habitat restoration in the rockery led by an Eagle Scout troop.

Together, these accomplishments and plans reflect a year and a future shaped by care, collaboration, and shared commitment. **Thank you for being part of the Menucha community and for helping ensure that this place continues to offer refuge, connection, and possibility for all who come here.**

Happy New Year 2026!

By Rev. Courtney McHill



What a year of incredible moments at Menucha, both challenging and deeply life-giving. When I reflect on 2025, I smile at how we have moved forward, continuing the vision for this sacred space while better serving those who come here to do purposeful work.

Our team has grown over the past year, both in size and in strength. It was the incredible staff that first drew me to this role 19 months ago, and while there have been shifts along the way, the collective group has only increased in vision and connectedness. We welcomed a new kitchen manager as we said goodbye to a beloved one. We announced a new housekeeping supervisor as we kicked off the new year. We said goodbye to an office assistant and welcomed a new team member into that role. We also transitioned a staff member from housekeeping to special projects, wishing them well while keeping them on the Menucha team.

Our management team traveled and learned together in November, and we continue to grow, individually and collectively, to be the best we can be in service of Menucha's mission. Looking ahead, staff will read a book together, set goals for the year, and continue training as we expand.

Our capacity has grown and will continue to do so. By coming together, working hard, and securing a PGE Drive Change Fund Grant, our ability to serve more people and to do so more sustainably has expanded. With an electric shuttle van joining our fleet through the grant, we can support guests who face transportation challenges. Two new EV chargers will soon be installed on site, allowing us to serve guests who arrive in electric vehicles. We have built a stronger relationship with PGE that will continue to flourish, and we now have clearer insight into what will make future grant-writing efforts successful.

We have made much-needed improvements to elevate our hospitality standards, with more to come in 2026. If you visit, you may notice a new rug in Wright Hall, new carpeting in Creevey, and updated window screens. We are also planning deck improvements. This is just the beginning. With your continued support, we hope to enhance comfort and care across the property in the months ahead.

With updated comforts in place, we can focus on strategies for the next phases of growth. With your help and input, we can serve those seeking the sacred space they need to thrive in our ever-changing world. I look forward to discovering what that might mean through your involvement at Menucha.

While this past year has been essential in helping me come to know Menucha more deeply, I continue to look forward to connecting with you one-on-one during your retreats and hearing any feedback you are willing to share. You will also be hearing from me as I work to expand our connections through your networks. I lean on you to help strengthen Menucha by making introductions and opening doors.

The only way we can continue our mission of providing this sacred space is by ensuring our work and reach continue to grow. I would love to see Menucha's calendar at capacity year-round, and you can help by introducing me to nonprofits you care about, people who may connect with what we offer here, and by inviting others to experience the beauty of Menucha firsthand. This year looks incredibly promising for sharing the story of this special place.

Thank you for continuing to support Menucha—now and into the future.

Our 2025 Menucha Rose Award: Valerie Correa



Each year, our staff chooses one volunteer whose dedication has helped Menucha grow and flourish.

This year, we were delighted to present the Menucha Rose Award to Valerie Correa at our annual appreciation dessert. Valerie, founder of Sunrise Daisy and the visionary behind our new Survivor's Path, poured countless hours into creating a place of reflection, healing, and beauty on our grounds.

Her work has already touched every guest who has walked that quiet path. Thank you, Valerie, for helping Menucha bloom.



Menucha Joins PGE Drive Change: Investing in Clean Energy + Community Access

We're delighted to announce that Menucha is a Portland General Electric Drive Change Fund awardee, enabling us to move forward with multiple improvements that support our environmental stewardship and our commitment to community access.

What's being made possible:

- Acquisition of an **EV van**, which allows us to serve our guests on-site and provide transportation to underserved groups in our service area.
- Installation of on-site **EV charging infrastructure** to enhance operational sustainability.

PGE's Drive Change Fund is made possible by the Oregon DEQ's Clean Fuels Program. This grant aligns perfectly with Menucha's values of caring for the land, honoring our heritage, and welcoming everyone to experience the peace and restoration that this place offers. We are especially grateful to PGE, our supporters, and the broader community for their belief in this project.

Watch for more in upcoming issues: we'll share updates, photos, and invites as we install the new equipment and celebrate this milestone together.



WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THOSE WHO HAVE GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED MENUCHA

January 1 - December 31, 2025

Al's Garden & Home	Peter Diamonf	Margaret Hessel
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Lauren and Will Deming	Karen Hernandez	Katie McEntee
	Helen Hess	Robin and Loretta McGregor

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January 1 - December 31, 2025

Courtney McHill & Ana Krivokapic
Mike and Diane McKeel
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Sarah Wolf Newlands
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Neil Hoffmann
Murlan Kaufman
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John Allen Kinyon
Charles and Rita Knapp
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Dick and Joyce Malin
Carolyn McCall
Kathryn Zapf McDougald
Brenda and John Morris
Bill Murray
Bruce and Barbara Purdy

In Honor Of

Hal Broughton
Creative Arts Community
Ann Leuthauser
Courtney McHill
Donna & Monique
The Marriage of Cameron and
Haley Webb
Kathy Withycombe
All Of the Beautiful Souls Who
Make Menucha What It Is!

thank you

The Cooktop: A recipe from the Menucha kitchen

By Bekah Rattaro, Food Service Manager

Mushroom Crusted Quiche

Serves 6-8

¼ cup butter
3 cups sliced mushrooms
¼ cup thinly sliced green onions
½ cup bread crumbs or panko
1 ⅓ cup shredded Swiss cheese
1 ⅓ cup cottage cheese
4 eggs
½ tsp. salt
pinch of black pepper and salt for mushrooms
¼ tsp. white pepper



1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Grease an 8x8 baking dish or a pie pan and set aside.
3. In a sauté pan, melt the butter over medium heat and sauté the mushrooms. Season with salt and black pepper. Stir often, and cook until most of the moisture has evaporated from the mushrooms. Stir in breadcrumbs. Place the mushroom mixture into the prepared baking dish and press evenly over the bottom.
4. Blend the eggs, salt, white pepper, and cottage cheese in a blender until smooth.
5. Sprinkle the mushroom crust with cheese and green onions.
6. Pour the egg mixture over the cheese and onions.
7. Bake until the center of the quiche is set and no longer jiggles.
8. Brush the top with butter and let it set for around 5 -10 mins before cutting.

MENUCHA EVENTS FOR 2026

Camp and Conference Sunday at First Presbyterian Church: *Sunday, February 8 at 10:30 am*

Featuring a sermon from Menucha's Executive Director, Rev. Courtney McHill, on the power of retreat. It's a meaningful opportunity to gather in community, reflect on the importance of rest and renewal, and experience one of Portland's most beautiful historic churches.

Easter Sunrise Service: *Sunday, April 5 at 6:30 am*

Our service is open to everyone! Join us at Menucha to experience the magic firsthand.

Spring Flower Walk: *Saturday, May 16 from 1 pm until 3 pm*

Join us for a beautiful walk through the spring flowers around the Menucha property.

Open House: *Sunday, June 14 at 11 am until 3 pm*

The entire Menucha property will be open to the public for our annual open house.

Fall Fundraising Dinner: *Sunday, September 13 at 4 pm*

A time to gather in community and toast to the future of Menucha's mission.

Fall Tree Walk: *Saturday, October 24 from 1 pm until 3 pm*

A day at Menucha to wander through the fall trees.



MENUCHA PROGRAMS

You are invited to experience the joy of community and the energy that comes with rest and learning in an encouraging environment. Come to one of our programs, and you'll be surrounded by amazing people who will make a safe space to learn new skills and practice old ones. Details and registration are available on our website: www.menucha.org

Programs for 2026

January 26-29, 2026 Time & Space Retreat

March 6-8, 2026 Scrap & Sew Craft Retreat #1

March 23-27, 2026 Ukulele Band Camp

March 25, 2026 Menucha-lele Public Concert at the Corbett Grange Hall

April 5, 2026 Easter Sunrise Service

April 8-12, 2026 Columbia Gorge Early Music Retreat

May 8-10, 2026 Scrap & Sew Craft Retreat #2

May 11-14, 2026 Spring Watercolor Workshop with Anji Grainger

May 28-31, 2026 Tributaries Writing Retreat with Write Around Portland

August 2-8, 2026 Creative Arts Community @ Menucha

August 9-15, 2026 Creative Arts Community @ Menucha

October 7-11, 2026 Blues in the Gorge

October 10, 2026 Acoustic Blues Concert at the Corbett Grange Hall

October 22-25, 2026 Harmonica Northwest

Oct 30-Nov 1, 2026 Scrap & Sew Craft Retreat #3

Nov 2-5, 2026 Fall Watercolor Workshop with Tess Myers

November 5-8, 2026 Bluegrass in the Gorge

November 7, 2026 Bluegrass Concert at the Corbett Grange Hall

December 4-6, 2026 Missing You: A Loss & Grief Retreat for Body, Mind, & Spirit

December 13, 2026 A Service of Lessons & Carols





MENUCHA
Sacred Space - Purposeful Work

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Make a Meaningful New Year Resolution

New Year's resolutions are about creating positive change, and giving to Menucha is a way to bring that change to life. Your support fuels programs and experiences that foster growth, healing, and community. Start your year by planting seeds of hope that will grow throughout 2026.



Make a donation today! Use the QR code to contribute online or mail us a check made out to Menucha at PO Box 8, Corbett, OR 97019



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Email list: Sign up at Menucha.org

Contact us to update your information or sign up for our mailing list at:

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