



Menucha Retreat & Conference Center
PO Box 8
Corbett, OR 97019

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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 offer the finest retreat and conference center experience possible by providing opportunities for reflection, spiritual discovery, renewal, education and enrichment for individuals, families and communities.

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:

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Email address _____

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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.



IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE 100 YEARS!

Julius Meier purchased the property that would become Menucha in early 1914, described by the author as "one of the most attractive places along the river." This article was printed in the Morning Oregonian on August 8, 1914.

JULIUS L. MEIER BUYS BEAUTIFUL VIEW TRACT ON THE COLUMBIA RIVER NEAR CHANTICLEER INN AS SITE FOR HOME by Chester A. Moores

Thirty-five acres of Columbia River view property, made unique by the circumstance of its location and by the long residence of a particular character, "Kanaka Jim," has just been sold by George W. Joseph to Julius Meier for \$5000. The tract is situated between Chanticleer Inn and the Columbia River, 22 miles from Portland, in Multnomah County. It consists of a bench that extends farther out towards the Columbia River than Chanticleer at a point about 1000 feet west of it, maintaining an elevation said to be 900 feet above the water, or more than any similar plateau on the river. Mr. Meier has named the place "Menucha," which means a restful retreat. A rough sketch has been prepared for an elegant bungalow that is planned for erection on the place in the early fall.



A permanent panoramic view, seldom surpassed, is commanded from Menucha. Up and down the river one may see to the best advantage nearby Castle Rock, Cape Horn, Lone Rock, Rooster Rock, Angel's Rest, the Columbia Highway at a juncture where that famous boulevard starts down one of its longest hills, and, in the distance, the lights of Portland. Smooth and solid roads pave the way practically the entire distance from Portland, making it easy of access from Portland. A charming stream courses through the tract and there are several springs, one unusually large one being housed in a shed near the log cabin, home of "Kanaka Jim," who is now 83 years old.

A network of history and near-romance is spun about these 35 picturesque acres. An old pioneer named Painter located there some time between 1870 and 1875. He planted the place in a variety orchard of apples, cherries, quinces, peaches and pears. These trees were planted so well and have had such faultless care that the orchard, which remains virtually intact, bore freely this year. One of the cherry trees, two feet in diameter, was long ago grafted into wild cherry. Those acres not covered with orchard are planted in oats, potatoes and clover and each year return good crops. Painter was a carpenter and a wagon-maker. It is said that he built the log cabin, still standing in good repair, in 1872. His wife and four children resided with him on the place for many years. The three daughters, Emma, Alice and Annie, died on the place and were buried there. The father died about 20 years ago, leaving his wife, Kekaloha Painter.

The widow, Mrs. Painter, married Kanaka Jim, whose real name is James Luan. Kanaka Jim was born, as nearly as can be determined, about 83 years ago on Maui Island, one of the most prominent of the Sandwich Island group. He came to the Pacific Coast when a mere lad and shifted about until he landed along the Columbia River, where he is insured a comfortable livelihood for the rest of his days. Kanaka Jim and his wife adopted a little Indian boy, Louis Bannister, always known as "Little Jim," who was given to them by his mother, Mrs. Brown, of the Yakima Indian Reservation. In those days the Indians were accustomed to camp on Sand Island, between Latourell and the Columbia River, and fish. It was while Mrs. Brown was camping on this island with her son that Kanaka Jim took an especial fancy in the boy and induced the mother to leave the Indian lad with him when she went back to the reservation. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Latourell came to what is now Latourell in 1859. The Latourell family was large, and among the children "Little Jim" found congenial playmates. And so, in large measure, "Grandma" Latourell cared for Little Jim" and assisted in his bringing up.

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A BRIEF HISTORY

Spencer Parks, Menucha Executive Director

Not long ago (back in 2010) we celebrated our 60th anniversary. To be specific, we celebrated 60 years of being a retreat and conference center. Menucha as Menucha is much older—this year Menucha turns 100.

In 1914 Julius Meier purchased the property and began building what we now know as Menucha. According to our sources Samuel Lancaster, while working on the Columbia River Highway project, recommended the property to Mr. Meier. Meier came out to view the property, fell in love and subsequently purchased the land. (Our cover story article gives some detail about the purchase.)



Our office is probably the oldest structure on the property. It was originally built as the caretaker's residence and the greenhouse for the facility. (The greenhouse is now a meeting area.) What is now Wright Hall is the second building that has stood in that spot. The first was a log structure of similar size, but after 12 or so years it was infested with carpenter ants and had to be torn down. The building that stands there now was completed around 1928. Guests of Menucha are familiar with the "hidden" prohibition bar in the basement (now our coffee shop) and the "secret" window that looks out from the medicine cabinet in Mr. Meier's bathroom, through the bookcase and into the Great Hall.

Boyd Hall, Habitat and Hideaway comprise one building that was originally the garage and chauffeur's residence. What we now use as a maintenance facility was once used as dog kennels. We've been told that the caretaker and Mr. Meier raised and trained Doberman Pinschers and German Shepherds. The Barn was really a barn, mostly used to store equipment and such. Now we use it for groups who want to be more independent and prepare their own meals. Ballard Hall was the last building erected on the property. Mr. Meier had a strong sense of family and felt that the whole family should be able to enjoy the place all at once. The swimming pool and the tennis courts are also original to the estate.

Mr. Meier was governor of Oregon from 1930-1934. During that time Menucha was used as the official governor's residence. (Trivia note: Julius Meier is the only independent candidate to have been elected to serve as Oregon's governor.) Mr. Meier gave us our name. He was a part of the Jewish community in Portland. Menucha is a Hebrew word that is found in the 23rd Psalm. There it is translated as "still" as in "He leads me beside *still* waters." Perhaps a more accurate translation would have the word convey a sense of renewal that goes along with the quiet.

After Julius Meier died in 1937 the family use of Menucha declined. In the mid 1940's it was put on the market as a summer estate. The asking price was between \$250,000 and \$300,000. When it didn't sell, the family began to look for someone to do something creative with the property. In 1950 First Presbyterian Church in Portland purchased the property for the princely sum of \$60,000. For 64 years we have operated this retreat and conference facility as an ecumenical community-based mission of our congregation.

So, the refreshing stillness that Mr. Meier envisioned and experienced here continues. Instead of being enjoyed by one family it is enjoyed by thousands of people every year. I like to think Mr. Meier would be pleased with what we've done with the place.

Drop by and wish us a "Happy Birthday." We're looking forward to at least another 100 years of refreshing stillness.



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JULIUS L. MEIER BUYS BEAUTIFUL VIEW TRACT (continued from page 1)

Little Jim, whose Indian name was Tohe, died in 1908 at the age of 17 and since that time Kanaka Jim resided on the place practically alone until recently. At the death of Kekaloha Painter-Luan, about 12 years ago, the surviving son, Samuel Painter, who now resides at Everett, became the heir to the property. It was he who sold the land, about two years ago, to George W. Joseph.

Mr. Joseph had once heard William R. Maffett, who made a study of the scenic wonders of the East and of the world in general and who for a time lived at Latourell, speak in glowing terms of the Painter place. "That place is the choice viewpoint on the great Columbia River," he declared. "Some day in the near future the people will come to appreciate this river scenery sufficiently to build a great highway along its shores. Once such a highway is built it will open to the public a store of scenery that cannot be excelled along the Hudson River or anywhere else in the world." This adulation of the tract rang in Mr. Joseph's ears until a few years ago the opportunity came for him to buy it from Samuel Painter. Now the adulation is pouring from Mr. Joseph's throat in terms even more superlative than those attributed to the prophet, Mr. Maffett. He could never have been induced to sell it were it not for the fact that he owns additional acreage in that general locality.

Every few days Mr. Meier and Mr. Joseph make up a party for a short automobile trip out to see Kanaka Jim. It is their wont to arise these pleasant mornings at 5:30 and drive out when the air and when the coloring on the hills are at their best. After devouring a "regular" breakfast with Kanaka Jim on the "veranda" of the little log cabin they motor hurriedly back to Portland, Mr. Joseph to resume his law practice and Mr. Meier to direct the operations of one of the largest department stores in the country, each with a renewed zeal. When Samuel Painter consented to transfer the title to the 35 acres to Mr. Joseph, he did so with the understanding that Kanaka Jim was to have the right to occupy his little old cabin during the remainder of his life. Mr. Meier will carry out both the letter and the spirit of this original agreement, provision already having been made for Kanaka Jim's support. "Kanaka Jim's memory is fading and he is nearly blind. He has two inseparable companions, a rustic cane and a pipe. He is good-natured and usually wears a smile, and he cuts a picturesque figure."



Kanaka Jim sitting in front of his log cabin. He died in 1915 at the age of 90 as reported in the Morning Oregonian November 25, 1915.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS and SAVE THE DATES



7th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CROQUET TOURNAMENT and LAWN PARTY AT MENUCHA

Saturday, July 19th 9:30 am - 4:00 pm
Ticket price: \$35 participants, \$10 spectators

If you like to play croquet, or simply enjoy watching the game, you will want to be at Menucha for our 7th Annual Croquet Tournament this summer! Will this be the year we engrave your name on the winner's trophy?

We begin the morning with pastries, coffee and juice on the terrace; can you think of a better way to start off your day? Your ticket price also includes a barbecue lunch served by the pool overlooking the spectacular Columbia River Gorge.

The tournament is fun for all ages, with friendly competition, live bluegrass music, and door prizes for the young and the young at heart. Again this year we plan to have a small silent auction with a variety of items.

We invite you to come as a participant or join us as a spectator cheering on your favorite players. If you'd like, wear your croquet whites and fancy hats! Tickets will go on sale later this spring. We hope to see you on July 19th.

12th ANNUAL MENUCHA FUNDRAISING DINNER presented by the Friends of Menucha Foundation SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th 5:30 pm in WRIGHT HALL

We invite you to join us in September as we gather for an evening to support Menucha. This year is the 100th anniversary of the Meier's purchase of the property that is now Menucha, and we're planning to reflect on this historic milestone and look ahead to our future.

A beautifully decorated Wright Hall... wine and appetizers served on the terrace overlooking the beautiful Columbia River Gorge...a spectacular dinner prepared by the talented Menucha kitchen staff...an evening of joy, thankfulness and celebration!

We hope you will join us to hear firsthand how important Menucha is in the lives of the many guests who come here—a place where people can come and find the quiet they need for the work they want to accomplish.

Tickets for table sponsorships and individual seats will go on sale mid-summer. We hope you will plan to be part of this special evening. It is truly one of the highlights of our entire year!



THE COOKTOP—a favorite recipe from the Menucha Kitchen Becky Lindsay, Food Service Manager

APPLESAUCE CRUMB CAKE

Gluten-free, dairy-free, soy-free, nut-free and can be vegan
Adapted from Gluten Free Goddess



Guests have said they would not have known it was "everything free" unless we had told them!

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1 cup sorghum flour | 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon |
| 1 cup potato starch | 1 teaspoon allspice |
| ½ cup gluten-free all-purpose flour
(we use Bob's Red Mill) | 1 teaspoon ginger |
| 1 ½ cup light brown sugar | ¼ teaspoon nutmeg |
| 1 ½ teaspoons xanthan gum | 3 eggs, beaten (we use Ener-G brand egg replacer) |
| 1 teaspoon salt | ½ cup canola oil |
| 1 teaspoon baking powder | 1 tablespoon vanilla extract |
| | 1 cup unsweetened applesauce |

For the crumble topping:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| ½ cup light brown sugar | 3 tablespoons vegan and soy free shortening |
| 3 tablespoons sorghum flour | 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon |

Preheat oven to 350°. Oil a 9-inch round or square cake pan. (We have made it in an 8 x 8" square glass pan with success). Combine the dry ingredients in a large mixing bowl with a whisk. Mix in the eggs (or egg replacer), oil and vanilla extract. Beat well to combine. Add in the applesauce, beating by hand to mix well.

Spread the batter in the prepared pan and smooth it out evenly. Make the topping in a small bowl – mix all ingredients with a fork until the texture is sandy. Spread the crumb topping on the batter, lightly press down. Bake for 40 minutes – check for browning. If topping is brown and cake is not yet done, cover with foil and bake another 10 to 15 minutes until the center is firm and a toothpick comes out clean.

Cool in the pan on a rack. Delicious served warm, or it can be cut, wrapped and frozen.



Please join us for our annual EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE at MENUCHA Sunday, April 20 at 6:30 a.m.

All are welcome!

We invite you to gather with us as we celebrate our Lord's resurrection and new life! The service will be held in Wright Hall, with coffee and pastries served after the service.

38711 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy, Corbett • 503-695-2243
Sponsored by Menucha and East Multnomah County Presbyterian Churches

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LENT – “SPRINGTIME”

From the desk of Scott Crane, Program Director

Lent is a wonderful time of year that not everybody observes. Lent, like Advent, is about anticipating, or actively waiting for something new to happen. Spiritual traditions remind us that it is about keeping watch - never letting down our guard lest we miss a potentially life-changing opportunity, whether it is a moment of quiet beauty like the first snowdrop bursting into bloom or the equivalent metaphor of new springtime life waking into a world that desperately needs it. My own tradition speaks of examining part of that newness through self-examination and letting old things go as we prepare for Lent’s culmination: Easter.

We invite you to join us for one of our exciting new offerings in 2014 and/or return for some of your favorites. More offerings will be unveiled throughout the year, so stay tuned to our website for a complete listing.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

4th ANNUAL UKULELE BAND CAMP March 24-28, 2014

WHAT IT’S ALL ABOUT: Welcome to four nights and three days of intense fun, ukulele instruction, and merry music making, led by some of the ukulele world’s finest band masters. Our goal is to provide you with exciting challenges by learning to be in a band, play together, and try something new.



PRACTICAL CHURCH LEADERSHIP SEMINARS

March 29, 2014
May 10, 2014
November 22, 2014

WHAT IT’S ALL ABOUT: Welcome to three one-day seminars geared towards practical church leadership. Join us for a broad overview of what you really got yourselves into when you said “yes” to church leadership. Attend one, two, or all three.

Online registration is available at www.menucha.org/programs



SCRAPBOOKING DAY RETREAT May 10, 2014



WHAT IT’S ALL ABOUT: You asked and we delivered! Focus on starting or finishing a project; whatever you choose to bring, there will be ideas and supplies to try something new. A flexible schedule, fun ice-breaker and mid-day prayer with the warmth of a home-cooked lunch combined with fellowship around the wood burning stove in the Barn provide a relaxed, productive day with your hosts Joey Razzano and Gail Heibert.

5th ANNUAL COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE MOUNTAIN DULCIMER FESTIVAL May 29–June 1, 2014

WHAT IT’S ALL ABOUT: The Fifth Annual Columbia River Gorge Mountain Dulcimer Festival offers you the chance to play music you love, learn from top-notch instructors, relax and enjoy the view! This year’s instructors include Janita Baker, Neal Hellman, Sarah Elizabeth and Sally Smith.



1st ANNUAL MENUCHA BLUES IN THE GORGE October 2-5, 2014

Instructors: Pat Donohue,
Mary Flower, Robert Jones
and Suzy Thompson

WHAT IT’S ALL ABOUT: Watch, listen and learn up close from a few of the best musicians around while hanging with fellow guitar enthusiasts for four days/three nights.

Online registration opens Monday, March 3rd. Space is limited to only 36 participants to ensure plenty of instructor attention for everyone.

For details on these or any of our 2014 programs, we invite you to visit our website
www.menucha.org/programs