



## Menucha Board Bios – March 2021

### **Bates, Jon**

Jon has been a member of First Presbyterian Church (FPC) since 2014 when he and his wife Sally retired to Portland to be near their daughter and grandchildren. Now in his second term as an Elder on Session, he is also a member of the Finance Committee, Personnel Committee and Building Committee, among others. Jon is a retired pediatrician and hospital executive, and enjoys woodworking in his spare time.

### **Edwards, Douglas**

Douglas was born and raised in California, and moved to Oregon in 2019. His professional roles over the years are numerous, and include Director of Community and Church Relations with Human Good, a retirement housing nonprofit. He has served in many capacities with a wide range of organizations over the years. Douglas currently volunteers for the End of Life Coalition of Oregon, is a member of the San Gabriel Valley End of Life Coalition, and is a Commission Member for the City of Milwaukie. He is married to his spouse Vena, and has two amazing adult children, Amanda and James. Douglas was first introduced to Menucha after worship at FPC when he was introduced to Spencer and Commission chair, Rick Lee. Douglas has joined the Menucha Board in part because he believes spiritual practices are essential to our relationship with God. He appreciates how Menucha invites people into practices which build community and faith in The One Who Loved us into being. His goals for his service on the Menucha Board include: building a strong vibrant Board of Directors; establishing Menucha as a destination for renewal in the Pacific NW; and inviting others to join the growing community who value Menucha.

### **Foley, Jeff**

Jeff is excited to join the Menucha Board and help continue to support the mission to enrich lives. His background with FPC started in 1999 when he began attending along with his grandparents. Jeff and his wife were married in the church in 2003 and all three of their kids were baptized here. Jeff is also a former Menucha Commission member. On the professional side, Jeff spent the majority of his career in business consulting. He recently sold a portion of his firm and has effectively retired at the start of 2021. Jeff supports various organizations including as the Board Chair for Energy Keepers, Inc. (an independent power producer), the Vice Chair for Impact NW in Portland, and of course he is on the Board for his firm Propeller. Jeff is an investor at Oregon Venture Fund and also on the Advisory Board for a startup, Wishlist, in Denver. From an education background, Jeff has a Mechanical Engineering degree from SMU and an MBA from Duke. Menucha speaks to Jeff in terms of providing a space to develop one's relationship with God and focus on their own

spirituality. He appreciates that it's a safe space that provides an opportunity for reflection for individuals. He also really enjoys Spencer and believes he's a great leader. Jeff's favorite spot at Menucha is the fireplace in Wright Hall. His goals for service on the Menucha Board include helping to execute our strategic plan. He believes there is a lot of opportunity for Menucha and would like to help us expand our reach and mission.

### **Foote, Derek**

Derek grew up in Silverton and currently lives in Gresham. Professionally, he is a CPA focused on small local businesses and individuals. Other board experience includes the Friends of Menucha Foundation where he is a current steward and treasurer, as well as the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA). Derek's husband is a teacher at Reynolds High School and his son is currently in fifth grade and headed towards middle school. They've got two dogs that run the house. Derek first connected with Menucha in July 2009. He appreciates how Menucha's location and natural landscape allow people to "step away" from the craziness of day-to-day lives and take the opportunity to focus on the core of what is important to them. Menucha is a moment to pause, breathe, and reflect. Having spent ten years helping guide the RYLA program at Menucha, Derek developed a fondness for the long winding driveway and that feeling of first walking into Wright Hall when it was empty and feeling ready to be "home" for the next little while. Derek joined the Board because, "It's hard to say no when you've been asked to step up and support an organization which has been critical to your own personal growth and development." His time at Menucha set the course for his personal life and professional career, and he believes that when we have the capacity to give back, we should. Derek is a "get stuff done" kind of person, and while he may not have the breadth of connections or depth of resources that can support a board, he is a readily available resource for work that needs to get done and happy to provide his skills when and however possible.

### **Grewe, Chris**

Chris was raised in Ohio, and currently lives in Gresham. He is the Pastor of Savage Memorial Presbyterian Church in SE Portland. Chris currently serves on the board for the Portland Highland Games Association, and formerly served with: SnowCAP Community Charities where he was the board secretary; Cascades Presbytery as the moderator; Presbytery Council (now PLC) as the chair; Presbytery Committee on Ministry as the NE chair; San Francisco Theological Seminary Alumni Council where he was the president; and a trustee for the San Francisco Theological Seminary. Chris' spouse is Rev. Susan Grewe, HR and their daughter Anna is an English teacher at Sandy High School, and a veteran Menucha camper. Chris first connected with Menucha when he visited/participated in the Mini-Camp run by First, Westminster, Kenton, and Savage Memorial churches in 1993. He has done about a dozen summer camp weeks at Menucha, and attended/led in many Easter Sunrise services at Menucha since then. Chris started out in a "hogan" (a covered wagon without wheels) at church camp in about 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. He was a 7-year staffer at Boy Scout summer camps and has always felt the enhanced presence of the Holy Spirit in concentrated time spent together in a camp/conference experience. And, as with so many, Chris thrills in

experiencing the beauty of God in nature. Chris' favorite spots at Menucha include the Barn, the pool, and the spot where he saw the cougar. Chris' goals for his service on the Menucha Board include wanting to help in the processes of keeping Menucha a place of sacred space and purposeful work. Particularly at this time of transition, he would love to expand the experience of Menucha among the membership of the Presbytery of the Cascades, and the wider Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

### **Hedlund, Susan**

Susan is from Pasadena and currently lives in Portland. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker- Director of Patient & Family Services- Knight Cancer Institute-OHSU- Faculty Schools of Medicine OHSU and University of Washington; Faculty- School of Social Work, Portland State University. Her board experience includes her current role as the President of the Friends of Menucha Foundation. She was also the president of the National Association of Oncology Social Work, and an advisor for the American Cancer Society Board - Oregon Affiliate. Susan is married with two grown step-children and two Labradors. She first connected with Menucha 25 years ago when she brought the first cancer patient retreat. Susan believes working with people with serious illnesses can be profound and that Menucha is the perfect place where these people can transform and find meaning in their experience. Her favorite spot at Menucha is the pool - looking up the gorge at Vista House. Susan agreed to join the Menucha Board because she believes the mission of Menucha is important and appreciates us as a sacred, transformational place. She believes we need it more than ever in our current times. Her goals for her service on the Menucha Board include continuing the mission and ensuring Menucha's future. Susan is a member of the Association of Oncology Social Work (AOSW), AOSW Representative to the College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer-Chair of the Member Organization Steering Committee; and Member Society of Hospice and Palliative Care Social Work.

### **Hilty, Kendra**

Kendra Hilty was born and raised in Tucson and moved to Portland after graduating college in 2012. She was excited to become a member at First Presbyterian Church in 2013, and even more excited to join the Menucha Commission in 2014. Kendra was an integral part of the young adult intentional community established at Menucha in 2018-2019, and hopes to continue that work helping young people connect and get more involved in camp and conference ministry. As a resident of SE Portland, she is so thankful that Menucha is a short drive on I-84 from her home, and is looking forward to seeing how else she can serve to the new and current Menucha community.

### **Kennedy, Gordon**

Gordon's first experiences with Menucha were in the 1950s when his family attended First Presbyterian Church picnics and retreats. His parents joined the church about 1950 and all their family members participated in various activities—choirs, committees, retreats, and a married-couples group. Gordon's childhood experiences at Menucha forged a deep affection for the place. Menucha's setting, landscape, and architecture deeply influenced his

appreciation for the outdoors and showed him how a built environment can blend happily with nature. In 2018 Gordon retired from a 30-year career at the Washington State Department of Transportation. His work encompassed cartography, data management, and geographic information systems. He helped develop the newly formed Data Management Services unit of WSDOT and served on two research committees studying information management at the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies of Sciences. Gordon served as volunteer, board member, Treasurer and President for the North American Cartographic Information Society (NACIS) from 1998 to 2006. In 1985, Gordon was granted a Master of Arts in Geography from the University of Washington; he earned a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Design in 1973, also from the UW in Seattle. He graduated from Portland's Grant High School in 1969. After receiving his bachelor's degree, Gordon served in VISTA and worked in underprivileged communities in New York City, Rochester, and Seattle. Gordon has maintained connections with Menucha through acquaintances with staff, his dad's friendship with the retired facilities manager Ernie Yoder, occasional reunion events, and mostly recently through attending Ukulele Band Camp many times. In 2012, Gordon volunteered to update the Menucha grounds map. From childhood on, he has thought of Menucha as one of his favorite spots on earth. Gordon has served on the boards of Seattle's Fremont Public Association (now named Solid Ground), Associated Geographers of Puget Sound, the Northwest Computer-Aided Mapping Association, and currently The Market Street Singers. Gordon resides in Seattle.

### **Lee, Rick**

Rick is the current Chair of the Menucha Commission and is also a steward of the Friends of Menucha Foundation. He recently moved from Portland, out to a property not far from Menucha. Rick is a partner at Bodyfelt Mount LLP having joined the firm in 1986. He is a member of the American Bar Association, Clark County Bar Association, Multnomah Bar Association, Oregon Association of Defense Counsel, and the Washington Defense Trial Lawyers. Rick has taken part and held positions in many organizations including: Hollyrood School Foundation, Vice Chair of Oregon Association of Defense Counsel Coverage Practice Group, Oregon State Board of Bar Examiners, Member of Federal Practice & Procedure Committee, Member of Joint Council on Legal Assistants, and Session Elder at First Presbyterian Church. Rick first connected with Menucha when he joined First Presbyterian Church in 1986. Since then he has volunteered in many capacities including: painting, groundskeeping, cleaning, and filling an integral leadership role in securing the future of Menucha. His favorite spot on the property is the terrace of Wright Hall.

### **McCord, Keren**

Keren is from Atlanta and currently lives in Portland with her spouse who is a high school teacher, and shows up to teach his students with so much compassion and love for learning. They have two amazing daughters who are 18 and 16 years old. Their eldest goes to University of Oregon, and is a Family and Human Service major. Their younger daughter goes to Benson High School and hopes to go to medical school and become a surgeon. Keren feels fortunate and blessed to have such a loving family. They also have two dogs,

Gatsby and Stanley, and a 22 pound cat named Slash. Professionally, she is an Adult Oncology Social Worker at OHSU. Her board experience includes the Camp Kesem Advisory Board and the Steering Committee at Havurah Shalom. Keren first connected with Menucha when fellow board member Susan Hedlund asked her to co-facilitate a Pink Lemonade Retreat for cancer patients. She is drawn to Menucha's mission, and it is why she is grateful for the invitation to be on the Board. She has spent many years of her life working at different camps and convention centers. She believes there is magic in bringing people out of their daily routines and into a healing place like Menucha where time slows down, and there is focus for healing, learning and growing. Her favorite spot is by the pool where she loves looking out. Keren agreed to join the board because through her work with Pink Lemonade she has fallen in love with Menucha. It is a special place that offers so many different things to different people. She would like to be a part of Menucha's continued success and growth. Aside from her professional capacity with OHSU, her current organizational affiliations include: Critical Incident Stress Debriefing team at OHSU and co-chair for OHSU's Ethics Consult Service.

### **Merrill, Erich**

Erich hails from Memphis, moving to Portland, Oregon when he started his career as a business lawyer in 1983. He has served on the Session of First Presbyterian Church, is a steward (board member) of Friends of Menucha Foundation, and is a director of Free Geek, an organization that seeks to eliminate the digital divide through community reuse of computers and other technology. He and his wife Laura are the proud parents of Erich III, a computer science Ph.D. at OSU, and daughter Alex, who works for Education for Employment in Washington, D.C. Erich and Laura first visited Menucha when they were invited to a Palm Sunday brunch by Gwen Lawson. Many Menucha-based retreats, celebrations, services, and meetings have followed over the years. As it does for many others, Menucha feels like a second home to the Merrill family. Erich is looking forward to helping Menucha continue its mission of changing and enriching lives. When the current pandemic has subsided and on-site activities are able to resume, you may be able to find him polar-bearing in the Menucha pool just after sunrise. Erich agreed to join the Menucha Board because as Menucha grows up, he hopes to be able to support and contribute to that process. His goals for serving on the Menucha Board include: being part of an effort to increase the breadth and number of groups who have access to Menucha, with important part of that effort will be carrying out a long-term plan that involves new and expanded facilities at the property.

### **Razzano, Joey**

Joey grew up in Southern California, moving to Oregon in 1985. She currently lives in NE Portland. Professionally, Joey is an Operations and Policy Analyst. She is married to her husband Chris, and has two children at home, Wynter and Jade, and a son, Chris, who lives in Hawaii. Her board and volunteer experience include: Menucha Commission Member (finance), Church Clerk of Session for FPC, and Disability Advocate where she has supported both the NW Rett Syndrome Association (Fundraising Chair), and Harper's Playground. Joey

first connected with Menucha on a handbell choir retreat where they stood on the porch in Beam House and played music for Sarah and Spencer's birthdays. Menucha is the place she goes to fill her bucket so she may return to the northwest disability community, and continue to serve her fellow human beings. Her favorite spots at Menucha include every building and multiple locations that hold special memories, but the one thing they all have in common is the entrance road. When she turns into the driveway, she can feel herself slowing down and releasing tension, transitioning and preparing herself for the magic that's going to happen. Joey agreed to join the Menucha Board because she has experienced the Menucha magic personally, but she has also seen such special connections being made year after year that she wants to share it with everyone. Her goal for serving on the board is to provide financial analyses and recommendations to help Menucha become its own non-profit organization. She is particularly excited about developing programming and making data-driven decisions to ensure Menucha's success.

### **Sercombe, Tim**

Tim grew up in Missouri and Connecticut. He and his wife Jane moved to Portland in 1991. Together they have three adult children, Ben, Willy, and Emma, plus Tim's daughter from a previous marriage, Meghan, who is a local attorney and resides in Portland with her husband Oren and their two children, Tim's darling grandchildren, Phoebe and Graham. Tim practiced law for 31 years in Eugene and Portland before his appointment to the Oregon Court of Appeals in 2007. He served on that court until his retirement in 2017, and still serves as a senior judge on that court. Tim has served on two nonprofit boards as a director and president: Laurel Hill Center (a nonprofit providing housing and employment training for developmentally disabled persons) and 1000 Friends of Oregon, an environmental organization. In addition, he served as general counsel to a number of local government boards, city councils, and planning commissions, including boards in the cities of Eugene, Hillsboro, Troutdale, Oregon City, and Roseburg. Tim first connected with Menucha when his family joined FPC in 1993. Menucha's mission of enriching lives and building communities speaks to Tim because the dissolution of many communities has created an urgent need for more connections among us. His favorite spot at Menucha is in Wright Hall in front of a fire in the fireplace. He is also enamored with the small clearing overlooking the river in the northeast part of the property, the area of a former dump. Tim originally agreed to join the Menucha Commission to inspire and assist organizational change to strengthen Menucha. He has agreed to serve on the new board to finish those efforts over the next year. He has legal skills and knowledge in running and managing organizations, as well as specific expertise in administrative and land use law, that will be useful in those efforts, as well as nonprofit experience with other organizations.

### **Snodderly, Steve**

Steve was born and raised in Iowa and Nebraska. After graduating with an Industrial Engineering degree from the University of Nebraska, he relocated to the Pacific Northwest. His career has taken him through various management and engineering positions with firms such as Intel Corporation, Kaiser Permanente, and Portland State University. He and his wife

Lisa have three grown children and have lived in inner SE Portland for the past 40 years. Steve been very active in a variety of roles at both First Presbyterian Church (FPC) and Menucha Retreat and Conference Center. He currently serves as an active elder and as co-chair of the Building Committee for FPC. Menucha has become an important part of Steve's life over many years, including construction projects, family reunions, multiple FPC Labor Day retreats and significant volunteer hours. Steve has also served on both Menucha's Commission and Property Committee. He has been active in property maintenance and building improvements including the *Greening* projects which have led to more efficient use of the heating plant and electrical conservation in lighting. Menucha, its charm, its place of respite, its tranquil setting and its purposeful mission all speak profoundly to Steve. He looks forward to sharing his unique technical expertise and knowledge of this special place by serving as a Menucha board member to honor the important history while planning for a strong, sustainable future.

### **White, Kelly**

Born in Portland, Kelly has a long-standing love of the arts. She began taking ceramic classes while in high school and continued while in college. She is a graduate of the University of Oregon with a Bachelor of Arts in Speech: Rhetoric and Communications. Currently she sits on the board of the Creative Arts Community and is the vice president. Creative Arts Community has been offering immersive art workshops at Menucha since 1966. Kelly believes that the missions of both organizations are kindred. The Creative Arts Community "fosters a welcoming environment where all are inspired through art immersion workshops that renew artistic vision and enhance life." Menucha's mission is enriching lives through hospitality, learning, reflection and renewal. In 1996 Kelly fell in love as she walked through the grounds of Menucha visiting each building to view the art. She knew the sacred space was kin to reflection and renewal. Her first weeklong visit was in 2013 and she has attended art camp each year since. You could say that her favorite spot at Menucha is wherever she is at that moment: looking west from Wright Hall down the Columbia, looking northeast from the driveway at Beam, or the beautiful view of the gorge from the swimming pool. Kelly has two children, three brothers and twenty-six first cousins. Once her children were in school, she returned to work and has been at Clackamas Community College since 2003. In 2010 Kelly received the Richard "Coop" Cooper Award of Excellence in recognition of exceptional service to the institution, the students, and/or the Association. Kelly is inspired to serve and it is this exceptional service and forethought that she will bring with her to the board. Kelly is excited to meet the challenges that Menucha faces as it enters this new chapter.