



25th Annual POTLUCK in the PARK

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Christmas Day
Noon to 3pm

in partnership with the

Portland Art Museum

**Volunteer Sign Up is Now
OPEN**



You are invited to join us

for Potluck in the Park's annual holiday tradition. This year, we are pleased to again partner with the Portland Art Museum for the 5th year to serve our free Christmas Dinner in their Fred and Suzanne Fields Sunken Ballroom. We are expecting close to 1000 guests to join us.

This year we will be back to serving on Christmas Day after last year's adjustment to Christmas Eve. Serving hours will be noon to 3:00pm.

As always, we will serve a turkey dinner with all the trimmings accompanied by live music from some of Portland's finest jazz musicians. Guests can have their photo taken with Santa and receive a

Registration is Required for All Volunteers

You **MUST REGISTER** to volunteer on either Saturday or Sunday. **No Walk-Ins Please!** so be sure to sign up early given the limited number of volunteer opportunities. Volunteer spots fill up fast so please read the information below and sign up for **ONE SHIFT only**. We want to give as many people as possible an opportunity to help. Again, there will be no same day registration. You must be registered in advance.

BACK TO HANDS ON!!

We are moving back to the Hands On Greater Portland website for

pair of warm socks stuffed with goodies by Cathedral Elementary School student elves. We will have phones available to make free phone calls to loved ones.

We will spend the day before turning what is already a beautiful ballroom into a Christmas wonderland with a tree, pipe and drape surrounding the room and wreaths, fresh garland and poinsettias from our wholesale florist friends.

Christmas Day jobs include:

Buffet Line Servers, Bussing Tables, Cell Phone Room Monitors, Coffee/ Pastry Servers, Clean Up, Dining Room Runners, Dishwashing & Recycling, Greeters & Line Monitors, Guest Transportation, Pet Food Distribution & Pet Kennel Watch, Pie Cutters, Photos with Santa Helpers and Table Waiters.

Christmas Eve Opportunities:

The fun starts on Monday. If you can't help Christmas Day, come help us get ready the day before. We'll be Loading In, Setting Up and Decorating all day. See the Hands On website for shift details.



25 YEARS!!

This will be our **25th year serving Christmas Dinner** since the first time in Potluck's short history that Christmas fell

volunteer sign up this year. You will need to sign up each person in your family individually. There is **no team registration** option for this event. This is so popular that this is the fairest way we can make volunteering available to as many people as possible.

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)

HOLIDAY GOODIES NEEDED



Potluck in the Park welcomes donations of homemade or commercial non-perishable pies and cakes for our Christmas Day Dinner and cookies and pastries for our Sidewalk Coffee & Pastry Cafe out front. You can bake yourself or purchase, or maybe ask your local coffee shop or bakery for a donation of their Christmas Eve leftovers.

We also need No-Sugar, Low Sugar and Gluten Free desserts and fresh bananas for our diabetic and "dentally challenged" guests.

If you can help, please confirm via email to xmasbakedgoods@potluckinthepark.org. We aren't able to do this signup through the Hands On process. If you are bringing pies or cakes, please indicate how many.

IMPORTANT DELIVERY INFO! In order to reduce confusion on Christmas Day we ask that **all baked goods be delivered the day before, on Monday, the 24th** between 10am and 5pm when we will be setting up and decorating. Please bring them directly

on a Sunday back in 1994. David didn't want to serve outside in the park on Christmas Day. He stopped in at the **YWCA** just to see if they had any ideas about venues in the area. They said "What about our gym?".

Other than two years at the **Crystal Ballroom** during renovations the YWCA gym became our Christmas home for the next 20 years until the building was sold. Now we are very fortunate to have only needed to move across the street. The **Portland Art Museum** has been a terrific partner and both parties hope to continue this relationship for many years to come.

to the Art Museum.

If necessary, arrangements can be made to take delivery at our kitchen earlier in the week. Please [email us](#) first.



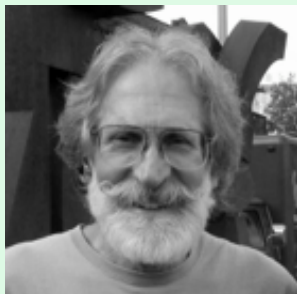
WARM WEAR DONATIONS

We are also looking for donations of new, mostly adult, winter caps, scarves and gloves for our gift giveaway at Christmas Dinner. In addition to receiving a pair of new socks stuffed with goodies by Cathedral School students we try to have enough warm wear to give one additional item to every guest.

Thanks to John Bacialli and Umpqua Bank there will be a collection box in the lobby of their building in Downtown Portland at [1 SW Columbia](#). We need to collect these before Christmas Day to have time to sort and count. If you have a quantity, we may be able to arrange pickup. Please [Email Us](#).

NOTE: Please limit your donations to these three items. Other clothing is too difficult to manage at Christmas Dinner.

David Retires! - But Potluck Continues on in Good Hands



Potluck began in 1991 when Sharon and Shelley Darcy set out food in the South Park Blocks. New guests, hungry guests joined them each week, and they were hungry because then as now, there was no food available on Sunday afternoon. Later at O'Bryant Square for over 21 years, people could count on a free hot meal at one location, whether they were low income, homeless, a veteran or one of many who could not comfortably enter a brick and mortar building. David Utzinger was there nearly from the start to make it all happen each week.

But in 2017 the City of Portland closed down O'Bryant Square and the garage below it as structurally unsound. Potluck did not miss a beat and still has not missed one Sunday in

over 27 years. David worked many long hours on finding a new location through a bureaucracy and business community that were sometimes inflexible and immovable. With no better options in November, 2017 Potluck began the first season under the Hawthorne Bridge, a temporary location that sheltered guests and volunteers from the snow and rain. In May, 2018 Potluck in the Park moved to 8th & NW Glisan next to the Pacific Northwest College of Art for spring and summer.

On September 30, 2018 David retired from the Sunday meals to resume a life outside of Potluck. But for 27 years David Utzinger was there to ensure that Potluck thrived. His Sunday began early and did not end until very late when he was sure that the park was cleaned up and in better shape than when the Potluck truck arrived.

His steady and consuming devotion to serving a hot meal every Sunday will be missed, but he laid the tools and framework for Potluck to continue without missing a beat. And Potluck is still a big part of his life. David and volunteer coordinator Bethany Dozier are busy preparing for our Annual Potluck Christmas Dinner, a 25-year tradition that will celebrate its 5th year at the Portland Art Museum.

Of course, it was never a one-man show. From the beginning there were always loyal key volunteers. When the recession hit in 2008 and guest numbers exploded, 52 volunteers from Hands On Portland were recruited each week to assist. The Potluck Kitchen was born. Overseen by Barbara Green, this loyal crew of volunteers adds to the food from Christ Church Episcopal who has provided casseroles each week from the start.

Potluck began its second season under the Hawthorne Bridge on November 18 and will remain there until April 30, 2019 when it returns to 8th & NW Glisan next to Pacific Northwest College of Art.

Please come and experience Potluck. There is so very much more to the story. Under the Hawthorne Bridge each Sunday you'll find Dan, Joseph, Curtis and Scot along with Betsy, Hal, Lacey, Melvin, Emily and many regular volunteers who serve a hot meal each week. Though David is not there, Potluck is alive and well.

Potluck always needs your help paying our bills, also. Please donate now before the end of the year using our secure PayPal link. Your direct contributions are VERY important to our mission.

[DONATE NOW](#)