

Executive Director Hat Fits Sister Julie to a "T"



We are delighted to announce that Starcross has an Executive Director. Although she has been serving in this role for several years, Sister Julie DeRossi now has the

official title as well as the responsibilities.

Julie grew up in Illinois, the oldest of five siblings. She earned a Psychology degree at Loyola University in Chicago, spending her junior year in Rome, and then a Teaching Credential from UC Berkeley. Besides enjoying taking pictures, making friends, swimming, and doting on babies, Julie especially loves introducing new folks into the world of Starcross.

Feel free to reach out to Julie by email at sj@starcross.org, if you'd like a closer connection. We all wish her well in her leadership role and deeply appreciate her 47 years of dedicated service to Starcross.

**Look inside to learn about
Sister Julie's Organic
Extra Virgin Olive Oil!**

Brother Toby's Spiritual Heart and Mind Going Strong



After writing and publishing thirteen books on living a spiritual life, Brother Toby, at age 92, still can't quite bring himself to retire! He continues as Spiritual Director

and to write Reflections and Haiku. He chairs the Publications Committee and keeps up an active correspondence.

Lack of mobility frustrates him, but Brother Toby's mind is keen, his spirit is strong, and his original ideas, such as creating an Elders Circle discussion and support group on Zoom, keep on coming.

In 2022, Brother Toby McCarroll was honored by the Living Peace Wall in Sebastopol, California. sebastopolivingpeacewall.com



Spirituality & Ecology Residential Internship Program Attracts Helpers from Around the World



At Starcross, we love hosting folks eager to combine organic farming/ecology with spirituality. Interns often come to us through programs such as Workaway

or WWOOF (WorldWide Opportunities on Organic Farms). This year's stellar olive harvest crew included five veterans from previous years. Our international team (Chile, UK, Germany and USA) did an amazing job! Internship has been an enriching peak experience for the dozens of participants we have hosted.

Weekly Publications Keep Us Connected with Our Community

Each week we send out three communications via the Internet: on Monday a Haiku, on Wednesday a Weekly Walk with Sister Julie's photos from around the property, and on Friday an interfaith spiritual Reflection. Many tell us they value these messages and forward them on to friends. If you are not already on our e-list, please contact us at community@starcross.org.

Scan Code for the New Audio Tour of Starcross



Thanks to one of our young tech-savvy interns, we recently debuted an Audio Tour of Starcross. This allows people to virtually take a walk with us on our beautiful land. Scan the code to listen!

Our 120-Year-Old Farmhouse Gets Some TLC



Our iconic Victorian farmhouse, built in 1903 of redwood milled on the property, is undergoing some much needed repairs and renovation. A new front porch and a fresh

coat of white paint have our old home looking radiant.

A Farm and Forest Adventure for Inner City Youth

This summer, we are excited to be hosting ten high schoolers from Oakland for a country experience. Many of these teens have never been to a farm or forest. Sleeping under the



Sister Julie's Prized Olive Oil Makes a Lovely Gift

A big part of our self-support comes from Sister Julie's Organic Extra Virgin Olive Oil. Our 1,800 beautiful olive trees produce a bright, robust, artisan oil. We may sell out before Christmas, so don't wait to order!

shop.starcross.org/collections/extra-virgin-olive-oil

stars promises to be especially life-changing and life-affirming. We are thrilled that they are coming to Starcross!

Food Pantry Helps Local Families

Starcross is a Redwood Empire Food Bank partner agency. With volunteer help, we take responsibility for ordering, picking up, sorting and distributing free food twice a month. About fifty local families depend on this help to keep them nourished. Because of activities like the Food Pantry and assisting in bringing the Internet to this underserved rural area, Starcross has become an informal community hub here in the northwest corner of Sonoma County, California.

Vespers Memorials



At our evening Vespers meditations, we read out the names of loved ones in celebration of their lives. If you have someone you would like to have remembered in this

way, please fill out the Memorial Book entry form at starcross.org/memorial-book-dedication. We are honored to do this for our Starcross Community.

Starcross Kin Worldwide



The House of Hope project in Uganda is winding down as HIV treatments mean the AIDS orphan crisis is ending. Over the past 25 years, more than 150 destitute children were raised and educated at the House of Hope. Many Starcross friends sponsored these resilient young teachers, mechanics, nurses, engineers, farmers, doctors, tailors, cooks, etc. who are now employed, responsible citizens of their country. Congratulations to everyone involved in this amazing venture!

At Our Farm Stand, Everything is Starcross Grown or Made

If you're in the area, please stop by our farm stand on Annapolis Road. Open from 8am to 6pm, seven days a week, we sell books, olive oil, homemade jams, dried herbs, body care products and fresh produce in season. Everything sold at the farm stand is grown or made here at Starcross. You can pay by cash, check, PayPal or Venmo. All transactions are based on the honor system. There's a little free library, too.



Two New, Unique Lodgings for a Starcross Retreat

Two tiny cabins have been transformed into treehouses and upgraded with sheetrock and electricity. When the outdoor shower and composting toilet are ready, we'll make the treehouses available for short, individual retreats during warm weather.

Weekly In-Person Meditation



All are welcome to attend a 40-minute silent meditation on Wednesdays at 4pm. We meet in the charming six-sided Starcross chapel atop the hill, with beautiful views in all directions. (We ask that participants be vaccinated. Masks are optional.)

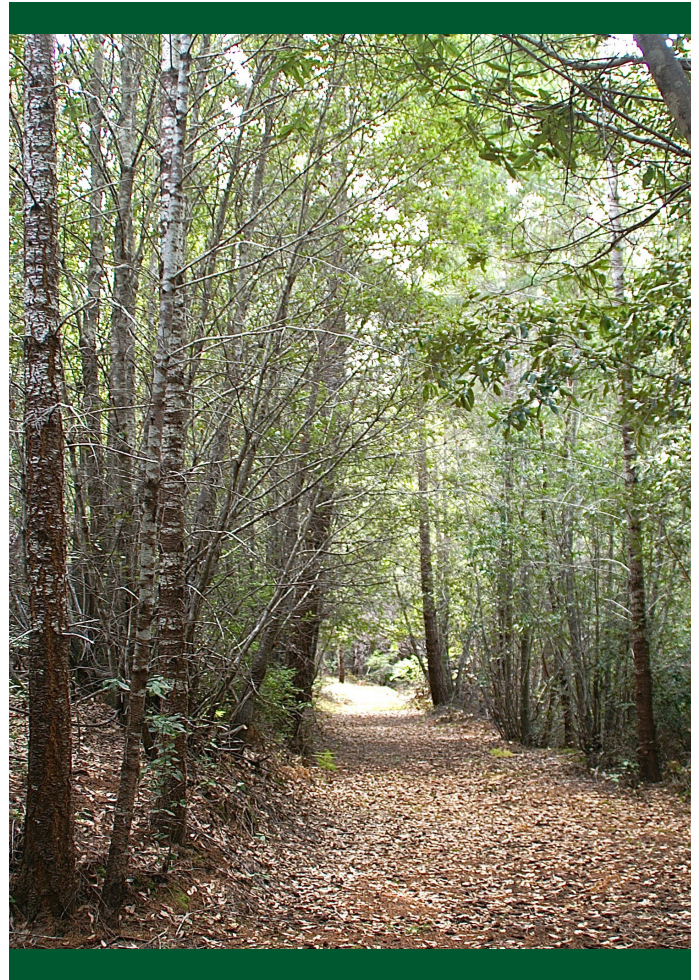
A Legacy Gift Means So Much



If you are planning your estate and would like to include a bequest of any amount to Starcross, we would be extremely grateful. You can be confident that your gift will be put to good use. We have a brief information pamphlet we'd be happy to send. If you have questions or need help in any way, please contact Sister Julie at sj@starcross.org or by phone at 707-886-1919. We sincerely thank you for considering Starcross as part of your legacy.

Conservation Easement Perpetuates Stewardship of Starcross Property

Starcross obtained a Conservation Easement that protects our ninety-one acre property—including forest, wildlife habitat, agricultural land, and open space—"in perpetuity."



Violet Seekers



SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS
OF TOLBERT McCARROLL

Aren't We All Violet Seekers?

Brother Toby's latest book of spiritual essays, *Violet Seekers*, is loved and treasured by many. If you would like a beautiful gift for yourself or a special friend, you can order it from our online store.

shop.starcross.org/collections/books