

New Spiritual Offerings



We've just introduced a new crop of virtual offerings. Our Book Club, Cinema Club, and Wandering with Death groups promote thoughtful discussions and

new friendships while keeping spirituality at the forefront. You can sign up and join us any time by visiting the Events page at www.starcross.org. You are also welcome for our Sunday meetings via Zoom.

Food Pantry

This year, the Starcross Food Pantry served 187 households, providing nutrition to 511 people.



Thanks to the Redwood Empire Food Bank and generous community donations, we've been able to keep our shelves stocked. Recently we partnered with Point Arena Action Network to provide legal aid referrals and services to our immigrant neighbors. We also collaborated with Mendonoma Health Alliance Mobile Clinic for on-site health screenings, Medi-Cal and CalFresh enrollment and recovery services.

2024 Olive Harvest and Olive Oil

Thanks to an early harvest and great weather, we picked olives starting in late October.

A group of 12 volunteers—from as far as Japan and New Zealand—joined us at the farmhouse, sharing meals, laughter, walks, and work. The sense of community they built

is part of what makes this year's Sister Julie's Extra Virgin Olive Oil so special. Now available at our farmstand and online, each bottle supports the land and the ongoing work of Starcross.

Interested in joining the fun of our next Olive Harvest? Reach out to Julie:

sj@starcross.org.



Starcross Youth Camp



Starcross again welcomed high school youth from Harbor House, a nonprofit serving families in Oakland. Campers hiked through the redwoods, harvested fruit, stargazed, and prepared meals with food grown on site. Said one camper, "Getting to pick blackberries and apples straight from the source was a great experience. The farm-to-table dinner was delicious and fun." We appreciate the donors who make this possible, and the campers who show up eager to experience new things. We will host Harbor House for the third time in June.



Farmstand

Stop by our charming farmstand, open daily from 8 AM to 6 PM. Browse seasonal and handmade products, including olive oil, jams, pickles, and herbs. Payment is on the honor system via cash, check, PayPal, or Venmo. During mid-summer bring your family for a picnic and enjoy all-you-can-pick blackberries.

Starcross Kin Worldwide Update

In 1998, Starcross Kin Worldwide (SKW) began supporting children orphaned by the AIDS pandemic in Uganda. Since then, over 150 young people have been helped to build lives as doctors, engineers, builders and more. Today, SKW is proud to support three students as they become nurses and a teacher.



Gloria, Swabulah and Pukelia were each raised by peasant farmer grandmothers after losing their parents to AIDS. With your help, they will soon achieve their goal of supporting their siblings and serving their communities. If you're moved to contribute specifically to this cause, please mention SKW or their names with your donation.



Restful Activist Retreat

We believe in supporting those working toward a more just, compassionate world. To that end, we will host our first Restful Retreat for Activists this June.



If you are an activist or work in a profession of service or justice-focused organization, and you wish to plan or attend a retreat here in the future, please reach out to Sister Julie at sj@starcross.org.

We prioritize individuals and groups whose values align with the Starcross mission of nurturing spiritual growth, caring for the Earth, and advancing equity.

Who's Who at Starcross

People often ask who lives at Starcross. Our resident population varies with the season, but here are some folks you may have heard about, spoken to, or communicated with recently.



Brother Toby McCarroll is the Spiritual Director and founder of Starcross. The 94-year-old author of 13 books and hundreds of Friday Reflections, Brother

Toby embodies the spirit of Starcross and continues to challenge us with new ideas.

Sister Julie DeRossi, the Executive Director, has lived at Starcross since its founding in 1976. From caring for children to bringing our programs and olive oil into the modern world, Julie enjoys meaningful personal connections and loves her life!

Mia Martins is our Assistant Spiritual Director. Her creative Spiritual Offerings are an important resource helping new friends overcome the pandemic of loneliness.

Allison Lovell is our Operations Manager and Farmhouse Host. Allison's friendliness has endeared her to our neighbors. She is a natural organizer with an enthusiastic can-do spirit.

Lance Baker is our Land Manager. He keeps the olive trees healthy, the gardens growing, and the land beautiful. Lance understands machinery and is the Master Miller of our olive oil.

Holly McCarroll is Brother Toby's daughter. An accomplished chef, Holly is back at Starcross to help care for her dad. We love her sense of humor and fantastic cooking!

Damien Baker is the 12-year-old son of Lance and Holly. When not playing baseball, Damien is practicing one of his many musical instruments.

Zack Gwin serves on the Food Pantry and Publication Committees. He helps with everything from computer data to canning jam. Zack especially comes alive in the forest.

Akini "Mack" Qauqau is Brother Toby's caregiver. The perfect combination of gentle and strong, Mack makes Toby's life comfortable and helps the household run smoothly.



[Lance](#), [Mia](#), [Mack](#), [Julie](#), [Zack](#), [Allison](#), [Holly](#)

Additionally, we often host volunteers. We value our many friends far and wide, including everyone reading this newsletter. Whether or not we ever meet, we truly consider each of you to be part of our community.

Introducing the Starcross Board

In January 2025, we updated our By-Laws to reflect our new Board of Directors. Consisting of many long-time friends, our Board meets quarterly to democratically decide the future of Starcross. We've introduced five resident members—Brother Toby, Sister Julie, Lance, Mia, and Allison—and are excited to present the remaining members.

BARBARA JOHANNES was principal of Ursuline High School in Santa Rosa. When she and husband **PHIL JOHANNES** retired near Annapolis, they began volunteering here. Barbara manages bookkeeping and volunteer scheduling for the Food Pantry. Phil helps with construction and repairs.

MIKE MULLINS, was District Attorney of Sonoma County, and is a longtime friend of Starcross. When we have legal questions, Mike stands ready to help.

DAVID McCARROLL, Brother Toby's son, grew up at Starcross. A professional violinist, David is concertmaster of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

ANGELA PARK, in addition to performing, is a cello professor at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA and the mother of four-year-old Paul McCarroll.

CHLOE CLASPER-TORCH is Executive Director of Hamilton House, in Providence, Rhode Island. During the two years she was Executive Administrator at Starcross, Chloe developed our website and introduced efficient business practices.

COLLIN MILLS managed the olive harvest crew, assisted with olive oil milling, and worked on numerous forest, garden, and construction projects over several years at Starcross. He and Chloe met here. They expect their first child in June.

LAURA HOLFORD came to Starcross through Worldwide Opportunities on Organic Farms as a student nurse. She is co-founder of IntrospectiveSpaces.com, a resource for people in health-care, especially those facing moral distress.

ISABELLA HALL works in land conservation at Yosemite National Park. Bella was a valued employee at Starcross who helped develop the publication committee, hosted farmhouse gatherings and asked insightful questions that inspired us all.

SAMANTHA STAHL organized our first teen summer camp and later served as Operations Manager. Samantha now has a career in journalism and public relations in Los Angeles.



We deeply appreciate those who have walked with us for many years, and those who will continue walking with us as we face an exciting future!