

Local Group Brings Hope to AIDS Orphans Monday April 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Just one of the exciting aspects of living in this beautiful place is meeting ordinary people doing extraordinary things. A case in point is the Starcross Monastery up the hill on the Annapolis ridge.

In 1968 Tolbert "Toby" McCarroll founded the Humanist Institute in San Francisco where he was living with a small group of nuns in the Haight-Ashbury district. It came to their attention that children with very special needs were not being adopted. Touched by their plight, they decided to become home and heart for them. Desiring to raise the kids in a better environment, the group sold their house and bought a run-down apple farm overlooking the sea. The first chapel was in a teepee and only later, in the loft of the barn. Brother Toby and the Sisters Marti and Barbara had a quiet, but exhausting, life as they lived the dream of "returning to the land" while raising their foster children.

However in 1998, they attracted national attention and the ire of some local residents when they adopted an AIDS infected child. The fear the disease was so great a sick child was denied transportation because volunteer firemen felt their ambulance should not be threatened by contamination. The sisters persevered, the child survived, and our community grew up.

As the AIDS epidemic spread to Romania, the Starcross group felt called to establish the Casa Speranta for the orphans there. Later, in the spring of 1997, in Africa they again saw and felt the needs of children orphaned by the death of their parents. With the help of many friends, they set up a program to provide them with home and schooling. A full account of this project can be found by going online to www.StarcrossKinWorldwide.



Since 1988, the group has provided a home and education for over one hundred children in Uganda. In the South Africa home there are over forty children

Sister Julie DeRossi and her colleagues will be sharing the stories of these children and showing the latest pictures of these various projects. Many coastal residents have already pledged the \$800 a year to sponsor a child.

"These kids are amazing!" says sister Julie DeRossi, "The epidemic has taken their mothers, fathers and siblings. They've experienced more death and deprivation in their short lives than most of us will ever know. But children are resilient. These orphans are growing up to be strong, capable, wonderful people."

A suggested \$5 donation will be taken at the door.

Photographer Ralph Lee Hopkins Lecture Wednesday, April 26 at 7:30 p.m.

People have asked how this Arts Center managed to have someone of the caliber of Ralph Lee Hopkins teaching in this remote spot.



Jeanne Gadol answered this with, "I first met Santa Fe-based photographer Ralph Lee Hopkins in March 2003 on a photo trip to Baja California, Mexico. During this magical two-week voyage with Lindblad Expeditions, which took us from the California gray whale lagoons along the Pacific Coast all the way around the south tip of the Baja Peninsula and into the Gulf of California, I quickly realized that Ralph has a special passion for teaching, and for the world's wild places. Ralph is not only a gifted teacher about the creative aspects of photography, but with his background in geology he helped us all to see the land in a new way."

Hopkins teaches workshops with *Arizona Highways*, *National Geographic* Expeditions, and Santa Fe Workshops. His images have been published in most major publications, from books by *National Geographic* to *Smithsonian* magazine, and are represented worldwide by the *National Geographic* Image Collection and *Lonely Planet* Images.

Hopkins also travels year-after-year to Antarctica to be on the ice with penguins and to Arctic Norway (Svalbard) to photograph polar bears where he got this fantastic shot of a polar bear leaping over open water from one floe to another.

His two most recent books, *Hiking Colorado's Geology* and *Hiking the Southwest's Geology* are about America's Southwest. His current passion, however, is ice and glaciers. Hopkins says, "It's like an addiction and I can't get enough. I'm working on a book of ice sculptures from around the world. The book will be an important work documenting the beauty of ice, which – with global warming – is a vanishing natural art form."

In conjunction with Ralph's spring workshop on April 25 - 30, he will be sharing images from his travels on a recent trip to the far north of Arctic Norway, photographing polar bears and walrus on a Lindblad Photo Expedition. The lecture, "A Voyage to the White Continent," will be something no one will want to miss. Everyone in the community is invited!