

An Autumn Evening with Brother Toby McCarroll Monday, November 13, 7:00 pm.

Brother Toby's new book, *A Winter Walk*, featured at the recent Sonoma County Book Festival, begins with this line: "Only in winter can we see the full moon through the bare branches of a tree or hear the call of unseen geese piercing the cold night air." In times of conflict we must quest for what holds each of us and our communities together and move away from



what tears us apart. This is an old American theme of poets, such as Emily Dickinson during the civil war. We have a critical need for such experiences at this moment in our history. Winter is a good time to start.

The chaos of the holiday season rarely contributes to our well-being. We all know of plainer and simpler winter paths which can lead us into places where something sacred can be found in the ordinary moments of life. These are some of the themes Toby will explore in this rare coastal appearance of our neighbor from Starcross Community in Annapolis.

Known for finding the transcendent in the ordinary, Toby will also read a few selections from his new book which covers a full range of human emotions and experience – some very close to home!

This promises to an enjoyable and helpful evening with this prize-winning author and respected spiritual guide for people on many different paths and journeys. His book will be available

for sale with the proceeds going to the Starcross Children's Fund. And there will be time at the end of his lecture for questions on all Toby's activities and those of Starcross, from AIDS orphans in Africa to olive oil and wreaths.

Tolbert McCarroll, better known as "Brother Toby" has lived by Meister Eckhart's adage that what a person acquires in contemplation should be spent in compassion. He is a highly respected spiritual guide for people on many paths and journeys. An award-winning author of nine books, including *Notes From The Song Of Life* and *Childsong, Monksong*, he is a founding member of the Starcross Community, a small lay community in the monastic tradition. A former attorney for humanitarian causes, he still frequently ventures forth in response to children in need. The adoptive father of six children, he has established homes for children oppressed by the AIDS pandemic in California, Romania, Uganda, and South Africa. He lives at Starcross in Sonoma County, California, where he writes and helps grow olives. \$5 donation requested.

Come To "The Secret Garden" And Witness The Wonder There!

Gualala Art Center Theater's upcoming holiday production is based on Frances Hodgson Burnett's enchanting classic, *The Secret Garden* – a favorite around the world. It is about the healing power of love and the miracle of rebirth. It is also a brilliant musical by Pulitzer Prize winning playwright, Marsha Norman (*Night Mother*). Lucy Simon, who began her composing and recording career at age 16 with her sister Carly, wrote the lush and lyrical score.

The story is about eleven year old Mary Lennox (Joselyn Malik) who was orphaned while living in India. She returns to Yorkshire to live with an embittered, reclusive Uncle Archibald (Phil Atkins) and his invalid son (Davina Allen). Their Misselthwaite Manor is haunted by Lily (Sandra Moore), Archie's beloved wife who died in childbirth. Among the manor's living residents are Archie's brother, Dr. Craven (Tim Johnson); Mrs. Medlock (Katie Atherton) the housekeeper; Dickon (Keelyn O'Brien) a magical youth who can talk to animals; his sister Martha (Olivia Harrison) and Ben (Bill Ballagh) the gruffly loveable gardener. The estate includes a locked-up magic garden that is awaiting love and care – as are the major characters in the play.

Flashbacks, dream sequences, a chorus of ghosts, (headed by Bryan Morse) and some of Broadway's most beautiful music dramatize a compelling tale of regeneration. This Tony Award winner is a treasure for children and adults. Directed by Lynne Atkins, with musical direction by Don Krieger and Sita Milchev, this is an elegant, entrancing production. It creates a world where lost loves are found, lost lives are saved, spring comes again, and beauty reigns.

Mark your calendars for December 8, 9, 15 and 16 at 7 p.m. and December 10 and 17 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children when purchased in advance, and \$20 for adults and \$15 for children on the day of the performance. However, don't count on tickets being available at the door, at any price – recent Art Center Theater Holiday shows have sold out! So purchase your tickets early at Gualala Arts, The Dolphin or by phone – 884-1138. This one is not to be missed!

