

## Starseed

**From:** "Starseed" <starseed@bcn.net>  
**To:** "Satyena Ananda" <starseed@bcn.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 3:37 PM  
**Subject:** Reclaim & Rebuild Our Connections with Each Other & All Life!



July: Reclaim & Rebuild Our Connections with Each Other & All Life!



**"The Patriarchy looks small and helpless in the fires of love"**

Ceremony can change our life and existence as we know it on a small and large scale.

The 2012 Summer Solstice Ceremony proved to be one of the most powerful ceremonies that we have experienced at Starseed and we believe that it will have far reaching effects.

We were a diverse group of twelve arriving from as far as Canada, each being drawn to come by an attraction that could not be denied. It was only two hours before the exact solstice time that it became clear that the ceremony would consist of burning two large wood sculpture pieces that had been identified as representing the matriarchy and the patriarchy. Guidance for this was given on March 22, the day after the Spring Equinox. It became clear that in order to conceive and give birth to a new humanity and a new world the

*"We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future.... To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and one Earth Community with a common destiny." - The Earth Charter (2000)*



Dear Friends,

Summer Solstice at Starseed emerged with a depth and propensity for change that revealed to us that not only are things unraveling and quickening on all levels but there is a profound crisis in the human spirit. We are at a crossroads. As various crises emerge in the environment, the economy and human relations, will we continue to turn on one another or will we turn towards one another? How can we come together and create a life sustaining society and universe that is truly about, the good of all? We are being called into deeper levels of awakening and action. During the month of July, as we enter the second half of the year 2012, we have a special line-up of programs whose specific purpose is to address these times we live in with love and tools for active change. Utilizing the power of this healing sanctuary, we will continue to incorporate the ceremony and ritual necessary to shift energies on multiple planes as well as to offer retreat and rejuvenation respite for those in need of it.

We start the month with our second annual Interdependence Weekend - a special opportunity to connect with community and deepen in our mutual belonging. The weekend of July 13-15, we are delighted to offer our first weekend-long workshop on the Work That Reconnects - powerful group work to support us through these times. We finish the month with a July 27-29 workshop on deep ecology, another powerful opportunity to deepen in our service to shift to a life-honoring society. We are particularly excited that this workshop will include a *Council of All Beings*. We hope to see you for one or more of these weekends as we explore the way forward to a new world together.

In Solidarity, The Starseed Team

**June 29 - July 1 Interdependence Weekend**

Join us for our second annual Interdependence Weekend! This

old structures and paradigms had to be dismantled. They cannot be refurbished or fixed but must go through the fires of transmutation.

The ceremony consisted of the ceremonial burning of these old paradigms and all the old dysfunctional and imbalanced ways of relating that are perpetuated by control and fear producing thought forms and structures. The awareness that came through was that an entirely new way of being in relationship with ourselves, each other and the universe is required. It is not yet known what this new way will be but it is quite clear that it will be completely based in love.

During the ceremony we acknowledged the good we had received from the matriarchy and the patriarchy, we fed the fires and released all that could hold us back from co-creating a sustainable, loving and peaceful way to live on earth and in the universe.

The Matriarchy transmuted easily, she gave herself over in a very graceful, nurturing and beautiful way. The patriarchy did not surrender easily. We had to burn it all night and into the next day, all the time being aware that we were called to hold the space for the complete release to the core of the patriarchy system. When only the hard and unrelenting core of the piece was left we tried to smash it with a metal rake. As we did this, waves of dark black smoke spewed forth from the core. We put it back into the fire to burn it completely, and as it finally let go of its last stand, the words came forth, "The Patriarchy looks small and helpless in the fires of love." In the end Love will Win!

Blessings, Satyena

weekend will be a co-created weekend with both free time for relaxation and some exciting program activities to help us reclaim and rebuild our interconnections with life and with each other.

Evenings are a time for community sharing and weather permitting will be spent around the bonfire celebrating our interdependence. Bring musical instruments, stories, yoga practices and anything else you would like to share to help create this magical event. Cost for overnight stays is \$35 per person per night to camp and \$55 per person per night for a shared room in the retreat house and includes a continental breakfast. Lunches and dinners will be potluck, with Starseed providing a main dish.



### **June 30 Sanctuary Service Day 9:00am-6:00pm**

Saturday will combine time for relaxation and your choice of several sanctuary service projects including working in the gardens, clearing some forest trails, and stacking the Starseed cordwood. It is a beautiful time to be on the land and we are looking forward to the camaraderie of sharing this work together.

### **July 1 Prayers for the Earth and The People of the Earth & Gift Circle, 12:00noon**

Our regularly scheduled Prayers for the Earth will include a Resonance Circle focused on how interdependence resonates inside of us. This will lead us into Sacred Circle Dancing led by Gurnam Khar Khalsa. Lunch will be at 1:30pm. If you are not an overnight guest, please bring a vegetarian potluck dish to share.

From 2:30-4:30 pm we will be hosting our first ever *Gift Circle* - an exciting circle format that builds community and interdependence. Sitting in a circle, in the first go around, people share one or two needs they have. As each person shares, others in the circle can offer to meet the need or offer suggestions of how to meet it. In the second round each person states something he or she would like to give. As each person shares, anyone can accept the gift either for themselves or someone else they know who could use it. The third round is for expressing gratitude. We are delighted to offer this circle format for sharing gifts and hope it will be the first of many Gift Circles offered at Starseed.

6:00-8:00pm: Special feast in honor of Thomas Thompson's 50th Birthday

### **July 13-15, Work That Reconnects Workshop: Growing the Wild and Courageous Heart**

Join Paula Hendrick, Carol Harley, Aravinda Ananda and Joseph Rotella for a weekend of the Work That Reconnects (WTR). This pioneering form of group work developed by Joanna Macy and others demonstrates our connectedness with the web of life and our authority to take action on its behalf. It has helped many thousands around the globe find insight, solidarity, and courage to act. Based on systems theory,



### Immediate positions!

#### **Gardener & Grounds Steward:**

This able-bodied person will be in charge of the maintenance of gardens, trees and shrubs, grasslands and woodlands. If you are someone who loves creating and transforming land for multi-purpose use, is innovative, ecologically-minded, and interested in co-creating a sustainable community check out is this summer stipend position [HERE](#).

**Buildings Steward:** We are seeking a person to take charge of maintenance on our buildings, including light carpentry and other "handyman" projects. Stipend based on skills and experience. [Click HERE](#) for details.

For more information on either of these opportunities contact Satyena at [starseed@bcn.net](mailto:starseed@bcn.net) or 413-743-0417.

#### **Personal & Guided Retreats:**

July retreats are focused on renewing your mind, body, and spirit. Come for a personal or guided retreat, lay on the Earth, eat vitalizing foods, drink in the sun, meditate, rest, restore, and balance your energies. Read more about [Retreats at Starseed](#). Call Satyena to schedule a retreat. 413-743-0417

spiritual teachings, and deep ecology, its methods involve practices that follow a four part spiral journey: 1) coming from gratitude, we; 2) open to and honor our pain for the world; which 3) opens us up to see with new eyes and; 4) sends us forth with mutual support and collaboration in working for the world.



The land will be a part of our time together, as we draw upon the living Earth for strength and support in our work for the healing of the world. We will interweave WTR practices and earth connection throughout the weekend and also incorporate some content and practices from Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone's new book - *Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in Without Going Crazy*. In these times in which the Great Unraveling is accelerating, we will join together in mutual support and collaboration in working for the Great Turning, as we plumb the depths of our souls and cultivate our wild and courageous hearts. Whether you are completely new to The Work That Reconnects, or well experienced in it, this will be a powerful opportunity to reconnect and deepen in our service to life on Earth.

The cost for this weekend is on a sliding scale of \$200-\$300 which includes program, delicious vegetarian meals, and a tent site. For an additional \$45 per night, you can stay in a shared room in the retreat house. Some partial barterers are available. For more information or to register, please email Aravinda at [aravinda.ananda@gmail.com](mailto:aravinda.ananda@gmail.com)

#### **July 27-29, For the Sake of Life on Earth: A Weekend of Deep Ecology**

Join Jeremiah Wallack, Joseph Rotella, and Aravinda Ananda for a weekend of Deep Ecology as we explore the challenges



we face on our beautiful planet and draw on our collective power, strength and wisdom to act for the healing of our world. We will embark on a rare journey together, building our weekend community and engaging in a powerful series of Re-Earthing rituals created by John Seed, Joanna Macy and others, designed to help end the sense of alienation from the living Earth that many of us feel. These rituals enable us to deeply experience our connection with Nature, in our hearts and our bodies. Rediscovering our "deep ecology" - our interconnectedness with all beings - we find empowerment as agents of healing change. This weekend will incorporate many practices from the Work That Reconnects, and Saturday will culminate with a Council of All Beings. Sunday will have a special focus on building support for going



For more information and to register for Starseed events and workshops please contact us at [starseed@bcn.net](mailto:starseed@bcn.net) or 413-743-0417 or visit us on the web at [www.starseedsanctuary.org](http://www.starseedsanctuary.org)

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**Starseed's Blog!**  
 Read inspirational articles, stories, and poetry.



forth in our work for the healing of our world. This workshop will renew the spirit and vision of those who serve the Earth and connect us with deep sources of joy and inspiration.

The Council of All Beings is a communal ritual in which participants step aside from this human identity and speak on behalf of another life-form. A simple structure for spontaneous expression, it aims to heighten awareness of our interdependence in the living body of Earth, and to strengthen our commitment to defend it. The ritual serves to help us acknowledge and give voice to the suffering of our world. It also serves in equal measure, to help us experience the beauty and power of our interconnectedness with all life.

The cost for this weekend is on a sliding scale of \$200-\$300 which includes program, delicious vegetarian meals, and a tent site. For an additional \$45 per night, you can stay in a shared room in the retreat house. Some partial barterers are available. For more information or to register, please email Aravinda at [aravinda.ananda@gmail.com](mailto:aravinda.ananda@gmail.com)

### Helping Hands

Many thanks to all the groups and friends who have volunteered their time to weed. Special thanks to Karen Porter, our WWOOFER Angel who is staying on to get the gardens planted.



### Coming up in August!

August 4	Super Starseed Fundraising Event
August 5	Prayers for the Earth and the People

Thank you to Linny Merry and William Pastore for permission to use your images.

***An incredible goodness is working on your behalf today!***

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[www.starseedsanctuary.org](http://www.starseedsanctuary.org)