

Anchoring The Evolutionary Impulse For Creative Solutions For The Earth And All Humanity

Newsletter Issue: 3/2012 SHIFT STARSEED IN TRANSITION... WHAT IS EMERGING NOW

"The ancient human-Earth relationship must be recovered in a new context, in its mystical as well as its physical functioning. There is need for awareness that the mountains and rivers and all living things, and the sky and its sun and moon and clouds, all constitute a healing, sustaining sacred presence for humans, which they need as much for their psychic integrity as for their physical nourishment. This presence ... is the atmosphere in which humans breathe deepest...." Thomas Berry



Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that we are already in the third month of 2012. If you are like us you are experiencing more to engage with and less time to "get it all done". Can life move any faster? As we move into the next gear we are asking the question: How do we stay balanced, nurture ourselves, remain connected in the heart and do the work that is before us to do to make our earth a better place for all beings?

"The spirit of the land is Awake.

The intention of the land is to heal and uplift through love and nurturance."

Starseed's 2012 Program Mission

In 2012, it is Starseed's mission is to honor the intention of the land and to bring you programs and retreats that foster personal and planetary healing and transformation. We live in intensifying times on the planet, and Earth is calling all of us to act to build a world that works for all. Starseed wants to support you in these times so that you can be healthy and whole and able to assist others in the healing of our world.

We are offering ongoing personal retreats, workshops, programs, ceremonies, and social gatherings:

- **Personal and guided retreats:** time away for rest, relaxation, and deep inner healing. Fortify your being to do the work you are called to in these critical times.
- Healing The Body: workshops and seminars that assist us in strengthening, cleansing, honoring, and healing our body-temples.
- **Social Evolution:** workshops, symposiums, and gatherings that heal` and empower our interactions, responsibilities, and interdependencies to each other and to all life.
- ♦ Earth Attunement: time connecting with the land through personal questing, work days, co-creating spaces of beauty, prayer gatherings, ceremonies, and just being with Nature receiving the healing energies of the land.





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Starseed kicked off 2012 with an incredible retreat to bring in this incredible year!





On February 4th, Aravinda, Joseph and Satyena facilitated their first Awakening the Dreamer Symposium kicking off a year of seasonal ATD Symposiums at Starseed. Meantime people have been taking advantage of the dormant winter season to come for long guided retreats to restore body, mind and soul. The land has held these dear ones in a warm and healing embrace as they vision and embody their next steps in life.





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Starseed Spring and Summer 2012 Calendar

Click here for complete program descriptions



March		June		
March 4	Prayers for the Earth and the People	June 1-3	Planting Weekend	
March 20	Spring Equinox Ceremony (5:00 -7:30pm)	June 2	Sanctuary Service Day	
March 22	Conception Day Visioning the birth of a loving humanity	June 3	Prayers for the Earth and the People	
		June 15- 17	Family Healing Workshop	
March 23-25	Creativity Weekend with George Herrick and Satyena Ananda	June 20	Summer Solstice Ceremony (6:00 - 9:00pm)	
	Saty ena / manaa	June 22-24	Summer Solstice Celebration	
أنبطه		June 30	Sanctuary Service Day	
April				
April 1	Prayers for the Earth and the People	July		
April 1-8	Personal Retreats Week – what rebirth is up for me?	July		
		June 29 – July 1	Interdependence Weekend	
April 22	Earth Day Celebration	July 1	Prayers for the Earth and the People	

July 6-9

July 13-15

July 27-29

Plant Spirit Medicine

Council of All Beings

Work that Reconnects Workshop

May

April 27-29

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May 5	Sanctuary Service Day	August	
May 6	Prayers for the Earth and the People May Day Prayer Ribbons	Magast	
		August 3-5	Deep Communication Weekend
May 12	Awakening The Dreamer Symposium	August 4	Sanctuary Service Day
May 18- 20	Cleansing Weekend Part II - includes medicinal herbs and wild edibles.	August 5	Prayers for the Earth and the People



Cleansing Weekend Part I

Click here for complete program descriptions





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Program Descriptions

March - Awakening



Our programs, activities and retreats in March are focused on the in-coming energy of spring and how we can use this energy to "Awaken" new life to what is wanting to birth in us and in the world. This is the month to feel your inner stirrings and let creation come through you!

March 4 Prayers for the Earth and the People

12:00 noon Weather permitting we will have prayers in the

Peace Labyrinth and Sacred Circle.

1:00pm Vegetarian potluck lunch

Throughout the Month of March Personal Retreats for Spring Clearing

Clear away the busy-ness from your life to make room for what really matters. This is a time for people who want to go deep into the quiet of the inner self and birth the emerging seed of the vision and purpose for their life. For more details on specific types of retreats or to arrange a personal or guided retreat, please call Satyena Ananda 413-743-0417 or visit: http://www.starseedsanctuary.org/retreatcenter.html#retreats

Along with on-going retreats we are offering three Equinox Events to wake up your spirit and your creativity.

March 20 Spring Equinox Ceremony (Event 1) 5:00 – 7:30pm

This is the first of three very powerful <u>Equinox events at Starseed</u>. Utilizing this potent time of the year we will open to manifesting a new reality for ourselves, the Earth, and the Universe. Join us as we honor and renew our seeds of growth; balancing our commitment to ourselves, to our vision, and to our life's work with love, passion, and compassion.

We will gather with a vegetarian potluck supper from 5:00-6:00pm, followed by a lively ceremony. Bring your musical instruments, poems and songs of celebration and rebirth. Suggested Donation \$10-15.

RSVP by 3/18 to Starseed@bcn.net or call 413-743-0417.

Starseed offers year round guided, personal and group retreats. Please see our website for a full listing.

BARTER- EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITY

Can you cook and clean and do odd jobs? Would you like to participate in the three Equinox Events and activities?

If you would like to exchange work for living at Starseed and participating in all the events the week of March 19-25, please call Satyena ASAP at

413-743-0417

March 22 Conception Day 2012 (Spring Equinox Event 2) 12:00 noon

Joining the **Shift** Network, we will create an energetic space on the land to hold our conception vision for birthing an evolved human consciousness that can then birth a peaceful world of cooperation, collaboration, and co-creation that is grounded in love. **RSVP by 3/21** by calling Satyena at 413-743-0417 or by email to: Starseed@bcn.net

March 23-25 Courageous Creativity Lifeshop: How to Transform the World by Transforming Your Life (Spring Equinox Event 3) Presenters: George Herrick and Satyena Ananda Fee: \$250

It is the time of the Spring Equinox, a time of rebirth. The Earth is beginning her creative cycle, and so are we. We are in a remarkable era of evolutionary shift, a time of creativity and transformation. Now is the time for each of us to identify the gift we bring to Planet Earth by focusing on what we love to do and then **DOING IT!**

This is a time to kick-start the creativity that has been dormant inside you. This retreat will help you take your next steps in harmonizing with this shift, expressing your part in it, and anchoring the creative impulse in your body. Using the modalities of art, movement, sound, and writing, you will have opportunity after opportunity to explore the deeply meaningful awakenings and changes that are happening within you. The focus is on joy, enthusiasm and the power of creative expression – this will be a fun "life-shop" extraordinaire. Join us in the beautiful container of Starseed Sanctuary for this juicy weekend!

RSVP by 3/21 by calling Satyena at 413-743-0417 or by email to: Starseed@bcn.net

Details:

Arrival: Friday, March 23, 5:30-6:00pm Departure: Sunday, March 25, 2:00pm

Meals: Friday and Saturday Dinners are vegetarian potlucks. Breakfasts and lunches supplied by

Starseed

Bring: journal, comfortable and warm clothing, indoor slippers, walking boots, bedroll or sleeping

George Herrick is an artist, writer and certified master life coach. His work reflects the colors, textures and shadows that give life its power, beauty and depth of meaning. He states, "The moods, visions and symbols I paint are often reflective of my dreams and experiences since being initiated in Incan shamanism in the Peruvian Amazon and the Bolivian Andes." Since his life's mission is about creativity, George's work as a life coach is dedicated to helping people

create and achieve their life's aspirations, to be the "artists" of their own lives. George can be contacted through his website. www.georgeherrick.com

Satyena Ananda is a holistic educator, mentor and spiritual counselor with thirty five years background and training in designing and implementing programs for people of all ages in the areas of healing, self-development, holistic living and spiritual alignment. Her work promotes spiritual connection, peace, self-acceptance, self-sovereignty and self-empowerment.

She is **co-founder of Starseed**, and has been directing it as an interfaith healing sanctuary and holistic retreat center for twenty five years. She states, "Within the creation and stewardship of sacred space, my calling is to guide the individual or group on a journey that is Self-directed: making their inner connection, creating their own ceremonies and rituals and sharing the many ways of connecting with Great Spirit, Mother Earth and the evolutionary impulse to create personal and planetary transformation."

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Starseed Seeks Stewards

If You ...

- have a wide range of maintenance skills such as carpentry, electrical, plumbing and grounds keeping
- Have gardening and landscaping and permaculture experience and/or
- Have office management, database, clerical and organizing skills
- are in a period of transition, looking to live more sustainably, align with your life's purpose and would like some support and "spiritual direction"
- value living in relationship with the land
- are called to a path of conscious evolution
- enjoy people and are comfortable hosting others
- are willing to work 25 hours per week

We'll offer you ...

- a room in our retreat house
- opportunity to live in a healing sanctuary and time to be on the land
- ability to attend Starseed programs
- some shared community meals
- optional 2 hours per week of spiritual direction counseling
- a 3 month commitment with the possibility for a more long-term agreement



Starseed is an interfaith healing sanctuary, holistic retreat center, and developing intentional community dedicated to personal and planetary transformation. Located in the hills of the northern Berkshires on 130 acres of fields, forests and wetlands, Starseed serves as a spiritual center and energy anchor for personal and planetary transformation. People come here to connect with Spirit, the Land, their inner Self and other Kindred Spirits. Contact us today for an interview. Call 413-743-0417



Please pass along this newsletter by emailing it to a friend, co-worker or family member and encourage them to join YOU in becoming an integral part of the SHIFT that's happening NOW at Starseed Sanctuary.

APRIL - Cleansing and Connecting

April is a month dedicated to deepening our connection to the earth and to our bodies, cleaning up and cleaning out, strengthening and healing, preparing to give the gift that only we can give.

April 1 Prayers for the Earth and the People 12:00pm

Weather permitting we will be praying in different sanctuaries on the land, connecting with our deepest essence and that of the land. There will be a Vegetarian potluck lunch at 2:00pm, followed by a viewing of the film Thrive.

April 1-8 Personal Retreats Week "A few days dedicated to mind, body, spirit can go a long way."

This is a time to reconnect with inner-spirit, quiet your mind, open your heart, and nurture your spiritual practice. As we go within, free ourselves up, and commit to a way of staying in balance we recognize that our own health is inseparable from the health of the world. To arrange a personal or guided retreat call Satyena at 413-743-0417 or visit: http://www.starseedsanctuary.org/retreatcenter.html#retreats

April 22 Earth Day Celebration: Practicing Compassion for the Earth 10am-5pm

"Earth stewardship is a spiritual practice. Each Earth-friendly act is an act of ecological mindfulness." - Gail Straub

On this day we will spend the morning in the sanctuaries connecting with the Earth, sending her our love, and receiving love and healing from the Earth. After a potluck lunch we will have a mini workshop on "The Great Turning" from a self-destructive to a life-sustaining society. This is a time to look at our individual and collective roles and how we can aid in The Great Turning. What acts of ecological compassion can we practice individually and collectively to make a difference for the earth. We will conclude the day with an Earthhonoring ceremony on the land with drums, music, and song.

April 27-29 Spring Cleanse "Inner Tune-Up" - A holistic cleansing and rejuvenation retreat for the body, mind, and spirit. Presenter: Satyena Ananda Fee: sliding-scale \$295-\$350 (all inclusive)

The "Inner Tune-up" is a program for cleansing and nourishing the whole self. It begins by positively focusing on what is wanted while releasing what is not wanted. It is safe and gentle yet powerful and effective.

This weekend's activities will include:

- Experiencing a weekend cleansing diet
- Learning the nuts and bolts of cleansing through focused intention, diet, breath, exercise, rest and relaxation
- Using nature to cleanse and uplift your vibration
- Creating your own special spring cleansing diet to take home
- ◆ Time for meditation, Rest, Relaxation and time in nature

"Your health and happiness is in your hands so honor and care for your body-temple." The Spring is a time to cleanse, detoxify, flush yourself out, drop those extra pounds, increase your energy and vitality, clear your mind, blast away depression, and feel great about yourself.

Satyena Ananda is a Polarity Therapist, Holistic educator and founder of the Boston Wholistic Program, an intensive three month program. She has 25 years experience designing and leading programs in cleansing and regeneration with a holistic approach. She is co-founder of Starseed, and has been directing it as an interfaith healing sanctuary and holistic retreat center for twenty five years.

Facebook

MAY - Co-creating with Nature

May is the month when everything starts popping out and life starts getting really happy as Nature emerges in all its joy and glory. The month of May finds us delving deeper into nature as the Sanctuary opens and invites your presence and co-creatorship in a day of service lifting up the sanctuary. On the first Saturday of each month May- October we will focus on cleaning and co-creating somewhere on the land. Come join us for these wonderful events.

May 5 Sanctuary Service Day

Please join us for our sanctuary service day. We will be cleaning up the sanctuaries (raking up leaves, picking up sticks) in the woods and beginning to wake up the soil in the gardens.

May 6 Prayers for the Earth and the People 12:00noon

We will celebrate May Day by writing personal and universal prayers on ribbons which will be attached to the labyrinth's north and south poles. Here they will fly for next year in joyous celebration of our commitment to ourselves and the universe. A Potluck vegetarian lunch will follow with more time to spend in the sanctuary.

May 12 Awakening the Dreamer Symposium 10:00am – 4:00pm

Presenters: Aravinda Ananda, Joseph Rotella, Satyena Ananda and others

Awakening the Dreamer is a worldwide initiative inspiring people to bring forth an environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling, socially-just human presence on this planet. Since its launch in 2005 by The Pachamama Alliance, a non-profit organization based in San Francisco, CA, Awakening the Dreamer has helped tens of thousands of people realize their tremendous potential as agents of change. Learn more at their website: http://www.awakeningthedreamer.org/participate-overview/experience-a-symposium/live-symposium/

A world of justice, fulfillment, and sustainability is not a fantasy for the distant future — it is a reality into which millions of people around the world are waking up and taking action. Awakening the Dreamer workshops enable participants to trade old dreams rooted in consumption, competition and inequality for a new vision of the human family founded on the desire we all share for justice and peace. A top quality experience combining video clips and interactive exercises, the Symposium guides participants through our current situation, how we got here, where we want to go, and engages us to take action now.

May 18-20 Medicinal Herbs for Healing, Strengthening and Cleansing



Presenters: Satyena Ananda of Starseed & Frank Grindrod of Earthwork.

Fee: Sliding Scale \$285-\$350 This class is limited to 10 people so register now.

This weekend will be our <u>second cleansing weekend</u>. For the first part of the weekend, in addition to a gentle cleansing diet we will spend time with identification and medicinal uses of garden herbs and wild edibles. We will be working with some of the most powerful plants that grow right in your back yard. Included will be the identification of plants, what is their natural habitat, their medicinal properties, how to prepare, cultivate and harvest them. You will learn to prepare tasty and nutritious, foods known to heal the body and restore balance to the body systems. We will be cooking with these plants as well as making remedies that you can take home.

Frank Grindrod of Earthwork Programs will be joining us on Sunday the 20th. As we walk the land we will connect deeply, interacting with our allies, the plant nations. In this class we will learn: nutritional information, keys for identification, ethics of harvesting in a sacred manner, skills in best practices in processing and collecting for speed and accuracy, and also how to prepare the food and/or medicine. We will also cover plant properties: plants are antiviral, antibacterial and can help with staph infections, influenza, immune stimulating or modulating needs, and anti-inflammatory. We are excited to share these valuable skills and if you have been working with plants for years or are just starting out everyone will gain useful and applicable skills and abilities to continue your journey.

Frank Grindrod, Instructor of the "Wild Foods Immersion Course: Seeing Through the Eyes of the Forager", is the founder of Earthwork Programs and, since 1999, has been dedicated to teaching earth skills such as nature awareness, tracking, wilderness living skills, bushcraft, and earth philosophy. He is a graduate of Greenfield Community College's nationally-recognized Outdoor Leadership Program. Frank has studied with experts in the field such as: Tom Brown, Jon Young, Paul Rezendes, Doug Elliot, Sam Thayer, Blanche Cybele Derby, Rosemary Gladstar, and Arthur Haines. He has been trained as a Wilderness First Responder. Visit Earthwork Programs at http://earthworkprograms.com/

Satyena Ananda is a Polarity Therapist, Holistic educator and founder of the Boston Wholistic Program, an intensive three month rejuvenation program. She has 25 years experience designing and leading programs in cleansing and regeneration with a holistic approach. Satyena has been growing and using plant medicines at Starseed for the past twenty years.

JUNE



June 1-3 Garden planting weekend

Rejoice. Warmer days are upon us. Reconnect with the earth by getting your fingers in the soil and lend a helping hand. Join us for a weekend of preparing the soil and planting flowers and vegetables in the Starseed gardens. Evenings will be a time for community sharing, with food, music, poems and any other gifts you would like to share. Sunday afternoon will be our regularly scheduled Prayers for the Earth.

- June 2 Sanctuary Service Day
- June 3 Prayers for the Earth and the People
- June 15- 17 Healing our Family Wounds

"When I heal my wounds, it heals my father's, and it heals the wounds of future generations. The cycle stops." - Thich Nhat Hahn

We all carry wounds from experiences with our families. These wounds can stay with us our entire lives, weighing us down, and taking up lots of psychic energy. What's worse, we may repeat the negative patterns we inherited in our families, perpetuating a cycle of dysfunction and hurt. During this weekend we will draw upon **The Work that Reconnects** and other methodologies to:

- Harvest the gifts of our ancestors, acknowledging how much they have given us that we are truly grateful for.
- Name the wounded places we have received from our families.
- Release some of these wounded places so that they no longer have to take up so much psychic energy, so that we can break the cycle, bringing healing for generations past, present and future.

This is not a therapy weekend, and is not intended to replace valuable work that can be done with trained therapists. This is a weekend designed to offer a supportive container for people to go deep to the roots of their family wounds and transform their relationships with these wounded feelings, breaking negative cycles, and unleashing healing. Group processes and the healing energies of the land will assist us in this deep transformational work. Assisted by the group and the land, we will be the agents of our own healing.

June 20 Summer Solstice Celebration (6:00 - 9:00pm)

June 22-24 Summer Solstice Weekend Celebration

Summer Solstice is a time for celebration - celebration of the warmth and light of the unceasing sun, celebration of our beautiful planet and the life that inhabits it, and celebration of the magnificent cosmos that we live in. This will be a community weekend with lots of free time for hanging out on the land, and co-created community gatherings in the evenings around a bonfire in the sacred circle, under the starry night. There will be a program piece each day incorporating the Universe Story, circle dancing, and some other activities to honor our beautiful cosmos and our place in it.

June 30 Sanctuary Service Day (see below under Interdependence Weekend)





June 29 – July 1 Interdependence Weekend

Independence from tyranny certainly has its merits, but our society has become excessively focused on independence and the rights of the individual, to the detriment of the whole. We have largely forgotten that we live in an interdependent world, and that we exist only in relation to others. This is a weekend for reclaiming and celebrating our interdependence.

June 30 Sanctuary Service Day

Interdependence weekend will include a few hours of sanctuary service on Saturday when we will come together as a community to stack the Starseed cord wood. You do not need to attend the entire weekend to join us on either Saturday or Sunday.

July 1 Prayers for the Earth and the People

Our regularly scheduled Prayers for the Earth will be an interdependence prayers ceremony. Afterwards we will share a potluck lunch and then a consciousness raising session on interdependence where we will explore how we can build interdependence, how we can build community through Circles – gift circles, resilience circles, be the change circles, evolutionary circles, and other circles.

July 6-9 Plant Spirit Medicine Plant Spirit Healing Weekend

Of all the spiritual helpers available to us, plants are the most accessible, asking only that we attune our eyes, ears, noses and hearts to their intelligence. The immense life-force and healing qualities that they offer come to fullness at the time of their blossoming, when a rainbow bridge opens between the soul of nature and the human soul. Join us in the Starseed gardens July 7-8:

- To renew your spirit on the sacred land of Starseed
- To deepen your connection with existing plant allies and meet new ones
- To enter into the waking dream of plant communication for personal guidance and healing
- To learn about flower essences as one way that plants offer themselves to us for spiritual growth
- To join in plant-led group prayers for Earth healing at this most potent time of global transformation.
- Please bring a notebook or journal and colored pencils, markers or water colors.

July 13-15 Work that Reconnects Workshop

Originally called "Despair and Empowerment Work," **The Work That Reconnects** is a pioneering form of group work that began in the 1970s. It demonstrates our interconnectedness 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, 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 central purpose of the Work that Reconnects is to help people uncover and experience their innate connections with each other and with the systemic, self-healing powers in the web of life, so that they may be enlivened and motivated to play their part in creating a sustainable civilization.

July 27-29 Council of All Beings

The Council of All Beings is a series of re-Earthing rituals created by John Seed and Joanna Macy to help end the sense of alienation form the living Earth that many of us feel. This workshop will renew the spirit and vision of those who serve the Earth and connect participants with deep sources of joy, and inspiration.

Many people intellectually realize that we are inseparable form Nature and that the sense of separation that we feel is illusory. 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.

Through interactive exercises, we practice letting go of the socially constructed, isolated self and come home to our inter-existence with all forms of life. We retrace our steps through our evolutionary journey and allow other life forms to speak through us. We shed our solely human identification and feel deep empathy for the myriad species and landscapes of the Earth.

This gathering also provides tools for practicing deep ecology in our daily lives. As many participants in this work have discovered, alignment with our larger identity clarifies, dignifies and heals our personal conflicts. We see that the pain of the Earth is our own pain and the fate of the Earth is our own fate. The Council of All Beings empowers us to act on behalf of the Earth and gives us clarity and direction for this work.

August



August 3-5 Deep Communication Weekend

In order to heal our world and our relationships with it, we must have healthy communication with our world and all beings in it. Our society has gotten locked up within the human mind, and we rarely if ever communicate with other life forms, with the living earth itself, nor do we communicate well with each other, with Spirit, or even with ourselves. During this weekend we will explore deep listening to one another, deep listening to our inner guidance, communication with plants, animals, and Earth, as well as a group method or two for surfacing group wisdom.

August 4 Sanctuary Service Day

A few hours on Saturday will be spent on the land, tending to the sanctuaries and forest trails and listening to the voices of the land. You do not have to attend the entire weekend to participate in either Saturday's sanctuary service or Sunday's Prayers for the Earth and Consciousness Raising Session.





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August 5 Prayers for the Earth and the People

This Prayers for The Earth and the People of the Earth will involve deep listening to Earth and Spirit, and also communication with Earth and Spirit by using faculties other than our rational brain. The afternoon Consciousness Raising Session will focus on a method or two for surfacing group wisdom, possibly world café or circle.

We are very excited about the coming year and we invite you to join us in these exciting changes by getting involved at Starseed!











If Starseed has touched your life, we encourage you to become more deeply involved. In this time of widespread change on the planet, it's an ideal time to come together in groups and circles to magnify our power. Starseed provides a place for people to gather to share, to learn, to inspire, and to support one another. Starseed is supporting the SHIFT.

How you can support Starseed? How can you join the SHIFT?

- Make a year-end or monthly contribution to Starseed
- Check out and attend our programs in the coming months
- Come and spend time on the land
- Volunteer your time and services. Starseed can use your talents.
- Help hold the frequency of Shift.
- Tell your friends about Starseed Share this newsletter with them
- Make a commitment to be an integral part of Starseed in Transition
- Become a Starseed Steward

Call us today to arrange YOUR way of joining the SHIFT. 413-745-0417