

Brief Encounter with the Taos Institute

January 2013

An Invitation from Mary Gergen, A Founder of the Taos Institute

Hard to believe, but the 20th Anniversary of the Taos Institute is coming up in April. Of course we founders are going to celebrate, and I'm sure many of our old friends and recent acquaintances will be on hand to join us in Taos, NM. We have big plans, not only to honor our amazing past, but to co-create our futures with our associates and other friends.

Many people who have just vaguely heard of the Taos Institute have some ideas about us that often need correcting. For example, people ask to come visit us at our headquarters in Taos. We have to tell them that we don't actually have a headquarters, and that our organization is "virtual" not physical. Dawn Dole, our executive director, works from her home in a suburb of Cleveland. Ken Gergen, a founder and president of the Institute lives in a suburb of Philadelphia. Outside of these two cities, our other board members are located in Houston, Durham, NH, Phoenix, DC and Calgary, Canada. We meet over the internet, or at our conferences, and once a year for a retreat. Our start in Taos was serendipitous; Founder Diana Whitney had a lovely home and office there, and our name reflects our time there, when we created our first conferences, and initiated what later became our non-profit organization.

The spirit of the Taos Institute reflects the early days of our collaborations, when we got together because we shared an idea of how to understand the nature of our realities – social construction, and we enjoyed each other's company. What I continue to marvel at is the spirit of friendly, fun, and fascinating connection that still characterizes our meetings 20 years hence. I hope you are planning to join us.

For information go to www.TaosInstitute.net