

From the Ashes

By Todd Wynward

Hello MSMC! This is a warm invitation to reserve some space in your calendars for some or all of **From the Ashes: Four Days of Conscious Community Celebrating the Comeback of TiLT** (Taos Initiative for Life Together).



Two years after an arson fire rocked our world and disrupted our lives, TiLT is reborn and rebuilt, ready to open its doors again to the community. Come on in!

Join us October 27-30 for courageous conversations, provocative presentations, engaging activities, fabulous feasting, multicultural music and ceremony, and more! 10am - 10pm each day. We all love a good comeback story—come and be part of the restoration!

You can register at our event website: <https://www.eventcreate.com/e/tilt-conference>

With this gathering we aim to bring together the following four cultural streams that inspire and animate TiLT: the permanence, presence & people of Taos Pueblo; the place-based wisdom and legacy of the Hispanic agricultural tradition and Acequia culture; the innovations and creative contributions of Anglo settlers; and inspiring and inclusive strands of justice-seeking, community-based eco-Christianity. We intend these four days of events to bring our region together in new and powerful and spiritually-rooted ways—to strengthen the intercultural bonds in our diverse community and build our imagination and our capacity and our trust, so with shared strength we may face an uncertain future together.

We are feeling led to frame this community experience as a four day prayer. Fire is what destabilized us two years ago and caused us to rebuild; fire is what will bring us together into new life. To ignite and initiate our time together on Thursday, we expect to kindle a sacred fire that we will tend as a community through Sunday's end.

Come join us and gather round the fire that heals and transforms--there's room for all!

Day 1 Thursday: Hey, Newcomers to Taos: Becoming People of Place

We will open at 10am with ceremony and blessings from Taos Pueblo drummers and singers as well as Mennonite hymns and movement songs as we light the Four Day Fire. Late morning field trip to the land of Kevin Whitefeather of Taos Pueblo. Ceremonial Aztec dance & blessing in the afternoon by Grupo Izcalli y Nanantzin, followed by a workshop focusing upon intercultural awareness and what it means to become "people of place" together in Taos, led by Margarita Garcia and Megan White. Later comes dinner, fire circle, free conversation, movement singing, and music from Miles Bonny.

Day 2 Friday: Communities of Spirit and Kinship

After 10am singing and blessing circle at TiLT, our morning field experience will take us twenty miles north to QUILT, the Questa Initiative for Life Together--an aging trailer park we are transforming to be a supportive sober living village and the HQ of Repurposing Plastic Project. Take a tour, hear an inspiring vision, and pitch in to smash plastic and build walls! After lunch our afternoon workshop will focus on "Communities of Spirit & Kinship," and we will engage with living examples of how ancient spirituality might offer something transformative to today's fragmented society, and how we might move from a culture of domination and competition to a culture of kinship. Dinner, fire circle, free conversation, and amazing West African inspired music, dancing and crowd engagement by the mesmerizing four-part band Sanji.

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-TODD WYNWARD

Day 3 Saturday: Uplifting Local Demonstration Projects

This morning's field experience will be out across the Taos Gorge Bridge to the Mesa to connect with allies who live creatively and sustainably without city water or electricity. We hope to engage with Angie Fernandez' hub of earth-bag tiny homes as well as visit Veteran's Off Grid. Our afternoon workshop continues the vein of hearing from inspiring local projects and project-eers deeply involved in local food, repurposing & upcycling, regenerative agriculture and multi-cultural watershed stewardship. This evening's music and inspiring energy will come from ALTO, a bluesy rock n' roll multi-generational family band with amazing stories of overcoming tragedy and hardship.

Day 4 Sunday: Remembering Our Ancestors and Looking Forward: Our Next 30 Years Together in Taos

This final morning ceremony on the last day of October, when the veil between worlds is thin, we will unify many traditions as we Remember Our Ancestors, honoring all our relations with a community altar, lifting up those "santos" and predecessors who came before and show us the way. Our afternoon workshop time will be a series of short juicy presentations to get the collective imagination flowing: proposing a community-empowered New Normal for Taos County; the multi-cultural movement of personal change and systemic change of Just Transition; the resiliency and regenerational power of the Doughnut Economics framework; and practical steps to weave an infrastructure of sacred hospitality and a broader sense of kinship in our community.

If you're an out-of-towner intending to stay overnight, Taos Valley Lodge is a recommended hotel, extremely close to TiLT. We also may have a few local hosts who might be willing to offer homestays...for this, contact toddwynward@gmail.com.