



ACADEMY FOR THE LOVE OF LEARNING®



the FUTURE OF LEARNING dialogues
Learning in Community

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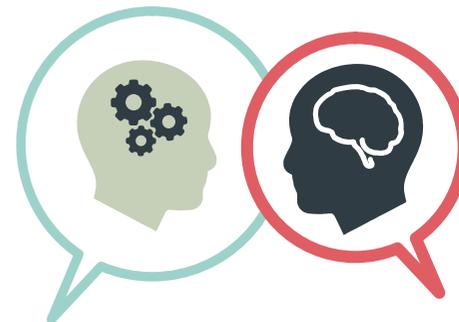
the FUTURE OF LEARNING dialogues

Inaugural Dialogue: Learning in Community

"The Future of Learning Dialogues are intended to focus attention on the Learning Spirit as distinct from the topic of Education. Institutionalized education and our ongoing attempts at its reform capture our attention while the powerful Learning Spirit within each of us gets lost in the shuffle and may be at risk. This series is dedicated to the reanimation of the Learning Spirit in us all in hopes that we will see robust images of learning at work in our lives. It is dedicated to the understanding that learning itself, if truly supported, can lead us through our lives toward greater degrees of freedom, purpose, meaning and mutual and planetary wellbeing. Imagine. . . if all Education was designed to support the Spirit of Learning in us all!" —Aaron Stern

The *Future of Learning Dialogue Series* is the Academy's bold new initiative meant to bring inspiring images of wellbeing and possibility during these challenging times. This series supports us all in reconnecting to the natural love of learning through conversations with exemplars of the Learning Spirit in Action - including artists, writers, members of indigenous communities, contemplatives, activists, scientists and kids. We are seriously looking for intelligent life in the universe!

Our inaugural event centers around the theme *Learning in Community* and features beloved writer, political activist, and feminist organizer Gloria Steinem in conversation with Academy Founder and President, Aaron Stern. Gloria, informed by a long-standing history of clear seeing, wise thought and activism, will enter the dialogue with Aaron, a leader who has spent a lifetime exploring and sharing learning as an ever-deepening path for connecting to our



"Imagine we are linked not ranked."

—Gloria Steinem

selves, each other and the larger world. The dialogue theme they have chosen is *Learning in Community*. They enter the dialogue asking: *How do we deepen our pathways to intimacy and understanding, so that we can learn together in the ways that we have forgotten?*

Gloria and Aaron are dear friends. Their ongoing conversation began more than a decade ago and has been never-ending! They have sometimes been seen talking away in local neighborhood restaurants in Manhattan while the restaurateurs try to close for the night.

Tonight's dialogue will begin with Gloria and Aaron and grow to add the audience. All proceeds from ticket sales will support the Future of Learning Dialogue Series. Thank you for being here!

ABOUT the Academy

Founded by musician, educator and internationally recognized consultant on learning, Aaron Stern, the Academy for the Love of Learning is an innovative non-profit educational institution based in Santa Fe, New Mexico.



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For over a decade, from the mid 1980s onward, Stern developed and tested a set of core practices and program elements and, in 1998, formally established the Academy as a non-profit organization in order to deepen and expand his work. Stern's organizational consulting practice evolved into the Academy's advisory service and training program, called *Ventana*, and a two-year Consultant's Training patterned after Stern's learning-centered consulting practices. Since then, the Consultant's Training evolved into an Academy core training program, *Leading by Being™*, designed by Stern, and a series of discrete workshops called the *Foundation Series*.

Known as a "think, do and disseminate tank," the Academy's commitment to practical and local applications of its work has led to the creation of highly-regarded and relevant community-based programs including *Teacher Renewal*, *El Otro Lado in the Schools*, multigenerational programs such as *Lifetimes*, and a citywide mentorship program in Santa Fe called *Inspire*. These and other programs have now begun to spread nationally and beyond.

In 2011, with a staff and faculty of 23, the Academy moved to a newly built 86-acre LEED Gold Certified campus, from which it offers its programs and services. The campus and buildings were designed with Stern's oversight and his deep intent to create a new place of learning that models and supports the Academy's mission to awaken, enliven, nurture and sustain the natural love of learning in people of all ages. The Academy celebrated its 20th year in 2018.

Stern conceived the Academy with musician, Leonard Bernstein, and continues to serve as its educational leader and president. Best known for his groundbreaking work on contemplative-based transformative learning methods, Stern's work aims to reconnect learning to its deepest intent – ultimately, *waking up!* Stern serves on the board and is a fellow of the Mind and Life Institute. The Academy's work is the subject of a major study at the University of Wisconsin's Center for Healthy Minds, under the direction of Richard Davidson.

We welcome your questions and visits and invite you to learn more about the Academy's work. Please visit our website at aloveoflearning.org and attend our programs and community events.



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AARON Stern

Aaron Stern, President and Founder of the Academy for the Love of Learning, is a musician, teacher, and internationally recognized consultant on learning.

As the Academy's creative and educational leader, Stern designs and directs the Academy's core curriculum and faculty, guides program development, and offers select trainings in depth facilitation and diverse aspects of the Academy's pedagogy.

During the early 1980s, Stern served as Dean of the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago. It was here that he began to focus on learning and educational processes, developing creative, experiential curricula that won national acclaim.

It was during that time that Stern re-met his mentor, musician Leonard Bernstein, and the two embarked upon an intense 10-year collaboration. Stern had already begun to imagine a new institution focused on learning and their conversations and shared experiences further informed Stern in his quest to find ways to awaken, nurture, and sustain a life-long love of learning as a means to becoming more fully human. This early work laid the foundation for what is now the Academy for the Love of Learning, founded by Stern in 1998.

Today, Stern conducts programming in Santa Fe, consultancies and seminars throughout the United States and other parts of the world and serves as a member of the Board and Fellow of the Mind & Life Institute, co-founded by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.



GLORIA Steinem

Gloria Steinem is a writer, political activist, and feminist organizer. She was a founder of *New York* and *Ms.* magazines, and is the author of *My Life on the Road*, *Moving Beyond Words*, *Revolution from Within*, and *Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions*, all published in the United States, and in India, *As If Women Matter*

She co-founded the National Women's Political Caucus, the Ms. Foundation for Women, the Free to Be Foundation, and the Women's Media Center in the United States. As links to other countries, she helped found Equality Now, Donor Direct Action, and Direct Impact Africa.

For her writing, Steinem has received the Penney-Missouri Journalism Award, the Front Page and Clarion awards, the National Magazine Award, the Lifetime Achievement in Journalism Award from the Society of Professional Journalists, the Society of Writers Award from the United Nations, and the University of Missouri School of Journalism Award for Distinguished Service in Journalism.

In 1993, her concern with child abuse led her to co-produce an Emmy Award-winning TV documentary for HBO, *Multiple Personalities: The Search for Deadly Memories*. In 2013, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama. In 2016, she and Amy Richards co-produced a series of eight documentaries on violence against women around the world for VICELAND.

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“Without leaps of imagination or dreaming, we lose the excitement of possibilities. Dreaming, after all is a form of planning.”

—Gloria Steinem



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