

## **TECVistage Keepers of the Flame 2022**

Chip performed by Doug  
3 years since  
Technology bridges the  
Gaps  
Bridge the silence  
Echoes around  
Dystopia rules but  
Only for a minute  
Or two so that  
The flame can be  
Passed. It is  
A safe place for  
The least anal  
Conference  
In the world. Hail  
To the new folks  
And listen  
To their stories  
Of passion and  
Gratitude. Some longer  
Than others but  
As ever,  
Karen came  
To the rescue. But  
It's hard to join  
A bell curve  
Online and in the room  
Chaos rules. Even  
When choosing  
Paper or digital. Under  
Or over. Fun – yes  
Or no!  
Who  
Has been framed?  
With fun and what  
Is meaningful  
Or extreme.  
Connectedness and the joy  
Of communityness.  
You don't make it easier  
To read  
These words  
So  
What's been missing?  
For you  
Other than

Toilet paper – bump in  
Conversations! Including  
The hugs and the hikes.  
Picture this – a  
Chaos of chairs  
Some photogenic  
Some not so but  
All thanked  
By Chip. Online  
I miss  
The Pearl Street walks  
What's that about  
French Fries? It's deeper  
Keepers with deeper  
Emotions and  
Collective effervescence  
Staying  
In her bubble of hugs  
Sharing joy.  
The flame comes back  
When it goes out  
This guy couldn't hear  
A lot of  
What was said except  
That men and women  
Expect different  
Things so  
Explore what's underneath  
The hunger  
The hunger for intimacy  
And the primal need for  
Our friendship and work  
Together.

### **Segment 2**

How does physical connection  
Help you  
To experience Joy?  
But  
Where does it really  
Come from? How do you  
Control your  
Universe? Allow the  
Energy to come back  
To you. From the energy  
Field you developed.  
Walk away through your  
Garden.

### **Segment 3**

With six word  
Stories so  
Pick a word  
Embrace love with  
Spontaneity so find  
Your friends. Find your  
Special words. Send them  
To Mark. Who you are  
Speaks loudly. What –  
Is the emotional impact  
Of the  
Endgame?  
Remembering the glory  
Of our connection.  
The glory of  
The tribal connection  
With each other  
Face to face and online.  
Being  
Thankful for the ability  
To communicate. For the  
Ability to think. With  
Or without  
The Cell phones.

### **Segment 4**

So, fourth segment  
In the stride  
In the element but  
Not actually  
In Boulder  
A responsibility to  
Shoulder  
And reflection  
On connection and  
Ephemeral hugs for  
My wonderful friends.  
Wish those hugs were  
Real and longer but  
Six words  
Can dig deep. Emotional and  
Inspirational. Think again  
Think twice. How can you  
Hale me when you don't  
Even know me?

He asked the Cyclops  
Wondering why. Weddings  
Led to funerals. Connect  
Again in Dyads and triads  
Listen to the conversations  
On your walks. Before  
Losing each other  
To the music  
Let's dance!

