



MAYFIRE

VEGAS VORTEX 2008

THE EMERALD TABLET

In truth, without deceit, certain and most veritable.

What which is Below corresponds to that which is Above, and that which is Above corresponds to that which is Below, to accomplish the miracle of the One Thing. And just as all things have come from this One Thing, through the meditation of One Mind, so do all created things originate from this One Thing, through Transformation.

It's father is the Sun; its mother the Moon. The Wind carries it in its belly; its nurse is the Earth. It is the origin of All, the consecration of the Universe; its inherent Strength is perfected, if it is turned into Earth.

Separate the Earth from Fire, the Subtle from the Gross, gently and with great Ingenuity. It rises from the Earth to Heaven and descends again to Earth, thereby combining within Itself the powers of both the Above and the Below.

Thus will you obtain the Glory of the Whole Universe. All Obscurity will be clear to you. This is the greatest force of all powers, because it overcomes every Subtle thing and penetrates every Solid thing.

In this way was the Universe created. From this comes many wondrous Applications, because this is the Pattern.

Therefore am I called Thrice Greatest Hermes, having all three parts of the wisdom of the Whole Universe. Herein have I completely explained the Operation of the Sun.

GREETINGS AND WELCOME!

Now that you've had time to arrive, park your vehicle and set up your camp, we invite you to slow down for a few moments. Take a couple of slow, deep breaths and get in touch with your center. The breath, the mind and the being are all intricately connected. When we're scared or excited, our breathing is rapid and shallow. When something startles us, we respond with a gasp or sharp intake of air, and our emotional state is affected by our breathing. When we consciously slow the breath, we quiet the mind and relax the body, bringing oxygen and nutrients to our entire system, and increasing our sense of peace and well-being. Throughout the gathering, take time to notice your breathing, and to allow yourself the peace that comes with long, deep, soft breathing...

As you breathe, take a moment, and become aware of your physical, emotional, mental and spiritual being. Notice the details of the universe within you – what your body is experiencing, what emotions you're aware of, what your thought process is like, how connected you feel to your Source... and before you leave the gathering, check in with yourself again, and notice if anything changes...

We remind you that you are safe here, welcomed and wanted, and that you belong. We are happy that you've chosen to join us in this place, at this time. Please take a few moments to read through this booklet. We hope you'll find it interesting, informative and inspiring! Each one of us has gifts to share, and we all have something unique to contribute... and the weekend would be different if even one of us were not here. May our work and play here be for the highest good of us and all life everywhere...

Spinner, Jeff & The Vegas Vortex



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY

12:00 noon: Early setup and arrival begins

THURSDAY

12:00 – 7:00 pm: Registration is open!

Celebrant Arrivals and Setup

6:30 – 7:30 pm: Dinner – please bring your meal to the Temple at the Oasis (Area 2) to dine with everyone. Then...

7:30 – 8:30 pm: MAGIC MOMENTS: Performance, Art & Inspiration! Immediately followed by:

Homecomers and Sponsors Orientation

If it's your first time to a Vegas Vortex event, bring your sponsor and have some fun! Learn your way around the Alchemical Fire Circle, and more about our tradition, the agreements, and the deeper magic that informs our rituals! (Required for all Homecomers & Sponsors)

8:30 – 11:00 pm: The Silence – rest

11:00 pm: Fire Lighting – Creating the Container

11:00 pm – Sunrise: Fire Circle Magick!

FRIDAY

12:00 noon: Morning Quiet Time ends

12:00 – 7:00 pm: Registration is open!

Celebrant Arrivals and Setup

12:30 pm: Lunchtime

We encourage your to bring your meal to the Temple at the Oasis (Area 2) and dine with everyone.

2:00 pm: Planetary Group Initiations

Meet at the Temple at the Oasis

4:00 – 5:30 pm: Community Sharing Workshops

If you'd like to offer one, sign up at the Temple at the Oasis!

5:30 – 6:30 pm: Dinner preparation with your campsite buddies

6:30 – 7:30 pm: Potluck Community Dinner

Bring your offering of deliciousness, along with whatever utensils you need to serve it, to the Temple at the Oasis, where we will feast together! **Please** be mindful of cleaning up after yourself; **we all** are the clean-up crew.

7:30 – 8:30 pm: MAGIC MOMENTS: Performance, Art & Inspiration! Immediately followed by:

Homecomers and Sponsors Orientation

If it's your first time to a Vegas Vortex event, bring your sponsor and have some fun! Learn your way around the Alchemical Fire Circle, and more about our tradition, the agreements, and the deeper magic that informs our rituals! (Required for all Homecomers & Sponsors)

8:30 – 11:00 pm: The Silence – rest

11:00 pm: Fire Lighting – Solve

11:00 pm – Sunrise & Beyond: Fire Circle Magic!

SATURDAY

12:00 noon: Morning Quiet Time ends

12:30 pm: Lunchtime

We encourage your to bring your meal to the Temple at the Oasis (Area 2) and dine with everyone.

2:00 pm: Planetary Group Initiations

Meet at the Temple at the Oasis

4:00 – 5:30 pm: Community Sharing Workshops

If you'd like to offer one, sign up at the Temple at the Oasis!

5:30 – 6:30 pm: Dinner preparation with your campsite buddies

6:30 – 7:30 pm: Dinner

We encourage your to bring your meal to the Temple at the Oasis (Area 2) and dine with everyone.

7:30 – 8:00 pm: MAGIC MOMENTS: Performance, Art & Inspiration!

8:30 – 11:00 pm: The Silence – rest

11:00 pm: Fire Lighting – Coagula

11:00 pm – Sunrise & Beyond: Fire Circle Magic!

SUNDAY

8:00 am: Vortex Bagel Breakfast at the Temple at the Oasis (Area 2)

9:00 am: The Supreme Banishing Ritual of the Alchemical Fire Circle

11:00 am – 2:00 pm: Take-Down, Rest and Depart!

7:00 – 11:00 pm: Potluck Chill-Out & McBride House of Mystery Open House – You are invited to our home at:

The McBride House of Mystery
3132 Shadowridge Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89120
Abbi: (702) 450-0021

Please bring food and drink to share. Instruments and offerings are welcome!

MUSIC MAKING AT THE FIRE

At MayFire, Alchemical Rhythmatism grows more refined, flexible, and easier to use:

Musicians and percussionists who wish to participate in the Musical Magic of our journey will learn about Alchemical Rhythmatism: a powerful collaborative method designed to guide individual music makers of *all skill and experience levels* towards deep connection with each other, service to the Circle as a whole, and conscious identification with the alchemical implications of their own artistic process. The approach is designed to be self-facilitating within the cyclic nature of the Circle, which requires a delicate balance between meticulously structured music making

and totally open free form jamming.

As is true with many forms of sacred practice, there are boundaries and guidelines that all celebrants are expected to accommodate within the architecture of the Alchemical Fire Circle. For our musical furnace, these include:

- playing musical instruments only in the seating provided
- rotating out regularly so others can play
- transitioning into, and then fully embracing total silence as an invitation to unaccompanied chants or spoken word offerings
- honoring the complete range of musical expression and diverse instrumentation
- playing together in a single shared rhythm through the magic of “Match Me”
- keeping personal belongings including instruments we are not currently playing outside the prayer flags

Music making at the fire is all about the power of connecting, and connecting is all about communication. We use a set of simple verbal cues to guide and align the musicians. Anyone in the ensemble or the circle can approach and make these verbal cues. This includes singers, poets, dancers and ritualists.

To make a cue, get people’s attention by stepping into the Gratitude Zone or just calling “**Hep**,” which means, “Listen up! Something is happening.”

SOME COMMON VERBAL CUES

- “**hep**” – listen up, something is happening.
- “**level up**” or “**level down**” – bring the volume up or down
- “**sup**” or “**slow it**” – speed up or slow down
- “**steady**” – keep the volume or the tempo at its current level
- “**tighten up**” – simplify and reconnect with the core groove
- “**sail in**” or “**sail out**” – slowly fade in or out
- “**show me One**” – show me the beginning of the groove
- “**match me**” – invite someone to learn your new rhythm or the rhythm in progress, by copying the pattern of beats that you are playing

INTERACTION AND SUPPORT - People are encouraged to guide each other. If you hear someone having trouble finding their part or place in the music, please offer help. If you are having trouble, look to your playmates for support. Please be gracious offering and receiving help, remembering that sound permeates the entire Circle. Approach the challenges of getting "it" and sharing "it," by having fun with "it."

SILENCE - the music is always in service to the Circle. Sometimes that means actively creating a silence, even total silence. Be aware of the dancers, singers, spoken word offerings and general energy around the fire. Active listening is a vital skill here.



PLANETARY AFFINITY GROUPS

This year at MayFire, we are experimenting with planetary affinity groups. There will be seven groups, one for each of the planets in our mythology. We whole-heartedly encourage you to attend and explore each day!

Each group will have:

- A) A check-in circle, where each person in the group will share for 1-3 minutes about their experiences, thoughts, insights and visions.
- B) A short group discussion on the planetary focus and mythology surrounding your planet.
- C) An exploration of ideas which individuals or the group as a whole could "bring on" at the fire that night, or at any time during

the gathering... a chant, a participatory ritual, an offering, a skit, etc.

Saturn: Lead: Calcination – heating up, burning up, turning to ash, confusion, doubt, rigidity, fear, shame, avoidance, death.

Jupiter: Tin: Dissolution – dissolving, purifying, sweat, letting go, inner voice, inner vision, remembrance, soften, melt, beginner's mind.

Mars: Iron: Separation – choice, cutting away, release, accepting difference, being different, taking action, taking risks, healthy defense, leaving the familiar, discernment, rising above.

Venus: Copper: Conjunction – creation of the lesser stone, coming together, joining, union, loving, balance of opposites, merging of above and below, integration, connection, communion, collaboration.

Mercury: Quicksilver: Fermentation – rot, decompose, refine, peacock's tail, practice, speak your truth, grow, evolve, deepen, patience.

Moon: Silver: Distillation – separate the subtle from the gross, harvest, polish, purify, concentrate, simplify, choose, transcend, integrity, prophecy.

Sun: Gold: Coagulation – gold, synchronicity, sunrise, crystallize, embody, radiate, quintessence, return to earth, coming together, completion, satisfaction.

SAFETY

No burning candles, gas lanterns, open flames or incense are allowed at any time except in designated installations when under direct supervision. We are required to enter tents or bunkhouses to immediately extinguish any fire source observed. Personal cook stoves in the designated cooking area must not be left unattended. All cigarette smoking must be carefully monitored and kept to brush-free areas only. Smokers: Please take care of your butts.

"We're not saying that you oughta; it's water, you gotta!"

OUR FRIENDS AT BURNING MAN REMIND US:

“Dehydration can cause headaches, stomach cramps, abdominal pains, constipation, or flu-like symptoms. It exacerbates both heat-related and cold-related conditions (i.e. both sunstroke and hypothermia), and makes it difficult for the body to mend itself. If someone you know complains of these symptoms, or shows signs of either severe overheating or (worse) a case of the chills under the mid-day sun, get them to shade immediately and seek prompt medical help. Parents, PLEASE ensure that your children are drinking enough water. YOU are responsible for your child’s health and safety.

Keep in mind that when you are out in the heat, your body needs replenishing of electrolytes as well as water. EmergenC and Gatorade are good options. If you are in need, ask a neighbor. Bananas are a good quick source of potassium as well.

Signs that you may not be drinking enough water:

- You don’t carry a water bottle with you at all times.
- You sip instead of drinking deeply.
- You wait to drink until you’re thirsty (too late!).
- Your urine is anything but clear and abundant.
- You become cranky.

LABORATORY GUIDELINES

The fire circle is intended to be a sacred and safe space. For this reason, we ask that you:

- Do not smoke in the fire circle area or discard cigarette butts in the fire.
- Do not remove burning sticks from the fire.
- Do not put trash into the fire at any time.
- Do not jump the fire.
- Do not attempt fire walking.

There are pit toilets in each of the three campsites. Let’s keep the one closest to the fire circle smelling as pleasant as possible by not going #2 there... we’ll all appreciate it!

PHOTOGRAPHY - Please do not use cameras, recorders, or other audio/visual recording equipment at any of the fire circles. At other times, please be sure to get permission from anyone you might like to photograph or record. Remember: Feeling safe is the foundation of freedom.

SLEEP - You are invited and encouraged (but not required) to participate all night in the fire circle. Consequently, it is important for you to plan and arrange your sleep schedule according to your personal needs. A common approach is to take naps during the day, and occasionally at night, to help ourselves stay refreshed for the time we spend in the circle. To allow people to sleep undisturbed, everyone is expected to keep Quiet Hours from dawn until lunch each morning, and from 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm each evening. Even so, earplugs may help you sleep more soundly. Consider using a sleep mask to help you rest during daylight hours. Your own personal alarm clock will be invaluable in helping you keep to your chosen schedule.

CLEANUP - It is our intention to leave the site cleaner than it was when we arrived, so please be sure to clean up after yourself completely. All participants are expected to contribute their fair share in cleaning up personal and community spaces. Remember, many hands make light work for all.

DEPARTING - Assuming everyone helps out with cleanup, we expect to complete our formal activities and clean-up by about noontime on Sunday. Following this, you are welcome to linger, enjoy the day and each other’s company, or nap before heading home. We all need to depart the camp site by 3pm. We are guests — let’s not overstay our welcome!



ALCHEMICAL POETRY

Two Prayers for Alchemists

Karl von Eckartshausen (1752-1803)

I.

Light Supreme, who art the Divine in Nature and dwellest in its innermost parts as in Heaven, hallowed be thy qualities and laws! Wherever thou art, all is brought to perfection; may the realm of thy Knowledge become subject unto thee. May our will in all our work be only thee, self-moving Power of Light! And as in the whole of Nature thou accomplishest all things, so accomplish all things in our work also. Give us of the Dew of Heaven, and the Fat of the Earth, the Fruits of Sun and Moon from the Tree of Life. And forgive us all errors which we have committed in our work without knowledge of thee, as we seek to turn from their errors those who have offended our precepts. And leave us not to our own darkness and our own science, but deliver us from all evil through the perfection of thy Work, Amen.

II.

Hail, pure self-moving Source, O Form, pure for receiving the Light! The Light of all things unites itself with thee alone. Most blessed art thou among all receptive forms, and blessed is the Fruit that thou conceivest, the Essence of Light united with warm substance. Pure Form, Mother of the most perfect Being, lift thyself up to the Light for us, now as we toil and in the hour when we complete the Work!

Life Time

Thom Cavalli

Keep time by breathing
What I exhale is past
The next breath is all I know
Of the future.

ONE

Annie Besant

Oh Hidden Life, vibrant in every atom,
Oh Hidden Light, shining in every creature,
Oh Hidden Love, embracing all in oneness,
May all who feel themselves as one with thee,
Know they are therefore one with every other.

In describing the interaction between mind and matter, Jung discussed the nature of the psychoid realm. Spiritually, this is the place where we can contact spirit.

Between

Thom Cavalli

Between the memories and the plans
Is there room for this moment to simply be?
Between the thoughts and impulses
Is there any pause for me?
Between the rules and declarations
Is there space for spontaneity?
Between the echo and the heartbeats
Is there silence enough for serenity?



WHAT IS YOUR OFFERING?

IT NEED NOT BE ALCHEMICAL, HERETICAL,
OR EVEN ECUMENICAL.
COULD BE GEOLOGICAL, BOTANICAL,
ANGELICAL, NONSENSICAL?
IT CAN BE STREET-SMART, HIP-HOP,
FREE-FALL-SPOKEN-WORD,
IT COULD BE DEAD PAN, SERIOUS, TONGUE IN CHEEK,
OR ABSURD.
IT COULD BE SOMETHING TASTY, TRASHY, FLASHY,
OR HOLY GUACAMOLE.

C'MON... BRING IT ON!!
AN OFFERING DOESN'T HAVE TO BE GIVEN
DURING THE NIGHT
IN THE FIRE LIGHT,
IT COULD JUST BE A HUG, THE SWAT OF A BUG,
A LITTLE SNUG
OR EVEN A SHRUG WHEN THE SUN IS BURNING BRIGHT,
SO REACH IN, DIG DEEP,
WHAT YOU SOW IS WHAT YOU REAP.
FIND THE DIAMOND HIDING IN YOUR OWN SACRED SKIN,
BREATHE IT OUT AND BREATHE IT IN,
SO COME ALONG, BRING IT ON,
IT WON'T BE LONG TIL WE'RE DANCING TIL DAWN
WHAT IS YOUR OFFERING?

SOLAR ADORATION

BY KATLYN BREENE

THE SUN RISES
WE LIFT OUR HANDS UNTO IT
TO BE RE-BORN, LIKE THE DAY

GOLDEN RAYS PIERCE OUR HEARTS
LIKE ARROWS OF LIGHT,
DISPELLING ILLUSION, RELEASING THE NIGHT

SOLAR ALCHEMY, FILLING EACH CELL OF OUR BODIES
TRANSFORMING, TRANSMUTING
LEAD INTO PUREST GOLD

AS ABOVE, SO BELOW,
THE SUN SEES ITSELF IN THE FIRE
IN EACH OTHER,
WE SEE GOD.





LOVE IS THE CENTER