



# American Inspiration

Greetings to everyone,  
I hope that your week has brought you sunshine, both with the weather and with the smiles around you. We could not be more excited with our contest season as each week the events get bigger and bigger! Make sure to keep up with the events on our web site at [www.DanceADTS.com](http://www.DanceADTS.com).

Here are some thoughts for the day:

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“The world is before you, and you need not take it or leave it as it was when you came in.”

James Baldwin (1924-1987) writer

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“I would rather be able to appreciate things I cannot have than to have things I am not able to appreciate.”

Elbert Hubbard (1856-1915) writer and publisher

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“Time marks us as we are marking time.”

Theodore Roethke, “Straw for the Fire”

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“If you want your children to keep their feet on the ground, put some responsibility on their shoulders.”

Abigail Van Buren, advice columnist

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We all have special people in our lives whether they are family, special friends, or those who are close to us. Someone sent me the passage that is below that is titled, “Sisters.” It notes the incredible bond between women. It is meaningful to the men out there because it describes a special friendship that women have among them. I hope it will allow you to appreciate the special friendships and bonds you have in your life.

Have a fabulous rest of the week, and, as always, please *keep in touch*.

*Sincerely,*

*Joyce E. Pennington, Pres. CEO*

*American Dance/Drill Team®*

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## *Sisters . . .*

A young wife sat on a sofa on a hot humid day, drinking iced tea and visiting with her Mother. As they talked about life, about marriage, about the responsibilities of life and the obligations of adulthood, the mother clinked the ice cubes in her glass thoughtfully and turned a clear, sober glance upon her daughter.

"Don't forget your Sisters," she advised, swirling the tea leaves to the bottom of her glass. "They'll

be more important as you get older. No matter how much you love your husband, no matter how much you love the children you may have, you are still going to need Sisters. Remember to go places with them now and then; do things with them. "Remember that 'Sisters 'means ALL the women... your girlfriends, your daughters, and all your other women relatives too. "You'll need of her women. Women always do." What a funny piece of advice!" the young woman thought. Haven't I just gotten married? Haven't I just joined the couple-world? I'm now a married woman, for goodness sake! A grownup! Surely my husband and the family we may start will be all I need to make my life worthwhile!"

But she listened to her Mother. She kept contact with her Sisters and made more women friends each year. As the years tumbled by, one after another, she gradually came to understand that her Mom really knew what she was talking about. As time and nature work their changes and their mysteries upon a woman, Sisters are the mainstays of her life.

After more than 50 years of living in this world, here is what I've learned:

**Time passes.**

**Life happens.**

**Distance separates.**

**Children grow up.**

**Jobs come and go.**

**Love waxes and wanes.**

**People don't do what they're supposed to do.**

**Hearts break.**  
**Parents die.**  
**Colleagues forget favors.**  
**Careers end.**

**BUT.....**

Sisters are there, no matter how much time and how many miles are between you.

A girl friend is never farther away than needing her can reach. When you have to walk that lonesome valley and you have to walk it by yourself, the women in your life will be on the valley's rim, cheering you on, praying for you, pulling for you, intervening on your behalf, and waiting with open arms at the valley's end.

Sometimes, they will even break the rules and walk beside you...Or come in and carry you out.

Girlfriends, daughters, granddaughters, daughters-in-law, sisters, sisters-in-law, Mothers, Grandmothers, aunties, nieces, cousins, and extended family, all bless our life! The world wouldn't be the same without women, and neither would I.

When we began this adventure called womanhood, we had no idea of the incredible joys or sorrows that lay ahead. Nor did we know how much we would need each other. Every day, we need each other still. Pass this on to all the women who help make your life meaningful. I just did.

**Short and very sweet:**

There are more than twenty angels in this world. Ten are peacefully sleeping on clouds. Nine are playing. And one is reading her email at this moment.