



## *American Weekly Inspiration*

### Thoughts for today and every day:

“Around here, you’re either expense, or you’re revenue.” Donna Vaillancourt

\*\*\*\*\*

“Have a reason for making a decision. You won’t always be right, but be sure your reasoning was correct.” Eddie Kasko, baseball player and manager

\*\*\*\*\*

“The road before us is shorter than the road behind.” Lucy Stone (1818-1893)  
suffragist

\*\*\*\*\*

“When we realize we are part of the same family then we’ll come up with real solutions.” Charles H. Wright (1918-2002) Physician and founder of the Museum of African American History

### **American Update:**

BRRRRRRRR!!!! The most of the country has been slapped this week with a little taste of winter. We even had snow falling last night here in Central Texas while a day or so ago we were in short sleeves and balmy. Bundling up helps everyone get into the Christmas spirit. There are more **One Day Dance Intensives** this weekend and again after the first of the year. Make sure to visit our web site for more information:

[www.danceadts.com/onedays.htm](http://www.danceadts.com/onedays.htm)

Now that many of you have completed your football season, it is time to think ahead to **Competition Season**. If you have not already done so, please make sure to visit our web site to pre-register your team. Doing so early will help us be able to get a schedule to you even earlier than before. Last season, we were able to get a preliminary schedule to directors about 10-12 days in advance and we hope to move that up even more. With

the new technology for our contest computer tabulations, we are able to upload the results to the web site within about one hour after the contest. We are also planning on providing directors with not only oral comments on cassette tape, but also video/audio comments by one judge in each team area that will provide you with the video of the performance as well as audio that will be provided on a flash drive that you can plug into your computer to watch the performance as you listen to the judges comments. To learn more about our contests, visit us at [www.danceadts.com/contests.htm](http://www.danceadts.com/contests.htm)

Need that special performance makeup for contest season? If so, we highly recommend **Biogime Performance Makeup**, that is not only the most affordable, but offers the best quality theater style makeup in the industry. Visit them at [www.biogimeskincare.com](http://www.biogimeskincare.com) or write to Beth at [biogcorp@aol.com](mailto:biogcorp@aol.com), for quick delivery of makeup and hairpieces.

Need the sharpest costumes in the industry? Go to **Curtain Call Costumes** at [www.curtaincallcostumes.com](http://www.curtaincallcostumes.com). They deliver quality dancewear at a promised delivery time.

## Inspiration of the Week:

### Keep Your Fork

Author unknown

There was a young woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. So as she was getting her things "in order," she contacted her pastor and had him come to her house to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes. She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures she would like read, and what outfit she wanted to be buried in.

Everything was in order and the pastor was preparing to leave when the young woman suddenly remembered something very important to her "There's one more thing," she said excitedly. "What's that?" Came the pastor's reply. "This is very important," the young woman continued! "I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand." The pastor stood looking at the young woman, not knowing quite what to say. "That surprises you, doesn't it?" the young woman asked. "Well, to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request," said the pastor.

The young woman explained. "My grandmother once told me this story, and from there on out, I have always done so. I have also, always tried to pass along its message to those I love and those who are in need of encouragement.

'In all my years of attending church socials and potluck dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, 'Keep your fork', It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming ... like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance! So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder, "What's with the fork?" Then I want you to tell them: "Keep your fork the best is yet to come."

The pastor's eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the young woman good-bye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see her before her death. But he also knew that the young woman had a better grasp of heaven than he did. She had a better grasp of what heaven would be like than many people twice her age, with twice as much experience and knowledge. She KNEW that something better was coming. At the funeral people were walking by the young woman's casket and they saw the pretty dress she was wearing and the fork placed in her right hand. Over and over, the pastor heard the question, "What's with the fork?" And over and over he smiled.

During his message, the pastor told the people of the conversation he had with the young woman shortly before she died. He also told them about the fork and about what it symbolized to her. The pastor told the people how he could not stop thinking about the fork and told them that they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it either.

He was right. So the next time you reach down for your fork, let it remind you ever so gently, that the best is yet to come.

Friends are very rare jewels, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share a word of praise, and they always want to open their hearts to us.

Show your friends how much you care. Remember to always be there for them, even when you need them more. For you never know when it may be their time to "Keep your fork."

Cherish the time you have, and the memories you share. Being friends with someone is not an opportunity but a sweet responsibility. And keep your fork!

This weekly message is generated from:

**Joyce Pennington, Pres. CEO**

**American Dance/Drill Team®**

*Celebrating 50 years*

*1958-2008*

**[www.DanceADTS.com](http://www.DanceADTS.com)**