

American Inspiration

Thoughts for today and every day . . .



✓“Confidence that one is of value and significance as a unique individual is one of the most precious possessions which anyone can have.” Anthony Storr

✓“Money talks alright. Usually it says **Good-bye.**” Author unknown

✓“Friends are the sunshine of life.” John Hay

✓“Grace fills empty spaces, but it can only enter where there is a void to receive it, and it is grace itself which makes this void.” Simone Weil



American Update

We are all just a few days from the holidays. We, at American Dance/Drill Team, wish each of you and your families a joyous Christmas and a most prosperous 2012. May you have a safe holidays and return in January refreshed and fulfilled to take on a new year. We will see many of you in January at the Texas Dance Educators Association convention in Houston!



Inspiration of the Week

The Real 12 Days of Christmas

"People often think of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' as the days preceding the festival. Actually, Christmas is a season of the Christian Year that lasts for the twelve days beginning December 25 and lasting until January 6 the Day of Epiphany, when the church celebrates the revelation of Christ as the Light of the world and recalls the journey of the magi.

"Concerning the popular song 'the Twelve Days of Christmas,' a couple of years ago, I learned the story behind the text from an article in a church newsletter.

"From 1558 until 1829 Roman Catholics in England were not allowed to practice their faith openly. During that era someone wrote 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' as a kind of secret catechism that could be sung in public without the risk of persecution. The song has two levels of interpretation: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of the church.

***Each element in the carol is a code word for a reality of our faith:
The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ.***

*The two turtledoves are the Old and New Testaments.
Three French hens stand for faith, hope and love.
The four calling birds are the four Gospels.
The five gold rings recall the Torah (Law) the first five book of the Old Testament.
The six geese a-laying stand for the six days of creation.
Seven swans a-swimming represent the sevenfold gifts of the Spirit.
The eight maids a-milking are the eight beatitudes.
Nine ladies dancing? These are the nine fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5).
The ten lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments.
Eleven pipers piping stand for the eleven faithful disciples.
Twelve drummers drumming symbolize the 12 points of belief in the Apostles' Creed."*

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Joyce Pennington, Pres. CEO

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Dance/Drill Team ★★
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