

COLORADO SUPPLEMENT

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Grand Master's Decision

Koon 1: Following the recommendation of the Patriotic and Civic Activities Committee, proper etiquette during the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag, while in any Templar Uniform will be to come to "Hand Salute" at the beginning of the Pledge of Allegiance, and continue holding in that position until the Pledge has been completed.

Ascension Day Service

The Knights Templar Association will be sponsoring this year's Ascension Day Service on May 16 at Coronal Ascalon at 3:00 PM, 350 South Broadway, Denver. The Rev. James Harris will be giving the message. Refreshments will follow the service. Your RSVP to jzeaphey@msn.com if you will attend.

Holy Land Presentation

I have put together two PowerPoint presentations from some of the 750 photos of the Holy Land. I don't think I will put all 750 images into any kind of presentation--however would like to formally thank the Knights Templar preferably after Easter. The Commanderies could call me to see if the presentation would fit into our mutual schedules. Until then MANY MANY THANKS for the trip, which was pretty incredible all around. STILL processing it --so much in such a short time. One of the best parts was the friendships with other clergy -- sharing of stories and experiences in our churches and on our spiritual journeys.

The Rev. Sandy Blake, 645 Kittredge Street , Aurora, CO 80011 303 364-7520 (h)
720 989-4293 (c)

Summer Degrees & Orders

The Pasture Degrees will be conferred near Akron on June 5th. Info Rick Benish (970) 554-0250. The Council Degrees will be conferred twice. First at the Fort in Delta on June 19th and at the Great Plains Rendezvous in Hastings, Nebraska on June 26th.

The Angel of Shavano summer event will be at the Blanchard Ranch on July 10, 2010. The ladies program this year is cooking 202 with a local chef. Be sure and invite the candidates' ladies. There will also be a Commandery memorial service for Larry Blanchard. It is critical that you make reservations for the meals. Therefore, it is imperative that we have reservations by June 24, 2010. Ronald Garrett @ (719) 942-3151 or David Salberg @ (719) 942-3177

Young Woman with a Fork

There was a young woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. As she was getting her things "in order," she contacted her Rabbi 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. Everything was in order and as the Rabbi 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 Rabbi's reply. "This is very important," the young woman continued. "I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand." The Rabbi 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 Rabbi.

The young woman explained. "My grandmother once told me this story, and from that time on I have 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 socials and dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were 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! 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 Rabbi's eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the young woman good-bye. 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, they saw the cloak she was wearing, and the fork placed in her right hand. Over and over, the Rabbi heard the question, "What's with the fork?" And over and over he smiled.

During his message, the Rabbi told the people of the conversation he had with the young woman shortly before she died. He told them about the fork and about what it symbolized to her. So, the next time you reach down for your fork let it remind you, ever so gently, that the best is yet to come. Show your friends how much you care. Remember 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.

Keep your fork.