

# Birdy guard ruffles some feathers

**Dear Annie:** I was at my brother's home for my sister-in-law's birthday a few weeks ago. My sister-in-law, "Jess," had a stroke some years ago and can only say a few single-syllable words at a time. She has an 18-year-old bird that she loves and takes care of.

My nephew's fiance, "Becky," and her daughter, "Emily," came over during the party, and Emily started to tease the bird. Jess looked at me and said, "Cover bird." I went over and very politely put the cover on the birdcage and said, "I think it's time for the bird to go to sleep. When there are a lot of people in the house, the bird gets stressed out. The cover helps him calm down."

Everything was fine for about 10 minutes. But then Emily went over, flipped part of the cover off the cage and started to tease the bird again. Becky was sitting right there and did not say a word to her daughter. I looked



Annie Lane

on silently because I felt it was not my place to say anything, and Emily sat down after a few minutes anyway.

But then she went over to the cage a third time. She began teasing the bird. At this point, my brother politely told Emily to stop because she was upsetting the bird, and she did.

At that point, Becky got upset. She told my brother, "She's only playing with the bird." She and Emily left the birthday party early because of this.

My brother and I would like your opinion

on whether or not it was inappropriate for him to tell Emily to stop. — Birdy-guard

**Dear Birdy-guard:** Of course it was appropriate of your brother to speak up. If that ruffled Becky's feathers, she should have stepped in before he had to. The next time you're all together, set some ground rules right from the start, and make them clear to Emily, Becky and your nephew: no ifs, ands or squawks about it.

**Dear Annie:** I couldn't agree more with your reply to "Wondering Why at the Y," who complained about the odor of his fitness classmate. But this isn't just a problem at the gym.

In today's offices, people are often crammed into small areas to save money. If one inconsiderate man or woman puts on too much fragrance, it can give headaches to everyone around them. It's unfortunate when the person causing this problem is a supervisor.

You don't tell the HR manager she stinks if you want to keep your job for very long! Once, my manager approached a corporate vice president about her perfume, because the noxious smell was making his employees ill whenever she visited. She replied that she paid big money for her French perfume and anyone who didn't like it could hit the road!

Long ago, I was given a piece of advice that I feel should be stressed in employee training and at workout centers: If you wear scents on a daily basis, you must be very careful. Over time, you become immune to the smell. Bottom line, if you put on enough that you can smell it, it's probably terribly strong for everyone else! — Glad I'm Retired

**Dear Glad I'm Retired:** Let this be a public service announcement: The perfumes and colognes you wear could ruin a co-worker's day. Spritz responsibly.

# Shampoo skills

**Dear Readers:** You've been SHAMPOOING your hair for years, but how much do you know about it? Here are some hints to help:

Washing your hair every day is probably not necessary; washing it too often can strip the natural oils from hair.

Choose the right type of shampoo for your hair. Ask your hairdresser if you're not sure of your hair's texture and type (dry, oily, etc.).

Gently massage shampoo into your scalp — don't scrub your scalp with your nails.

Consider conditioner. Apply to the middle and ends of hair only, and don't rinse it right away; it takes time to work.

Hot water is bad. Warm is better. A final rinse in cool water is best to seal in moisture.

— Heloise

THE WRITE STUFF

**Dear Heloise:** I



Heloise

always try to give something to charity. I love the tablets, pens, calendars, stickers, etc., that charities give out as thank-yous. What I can't use, I give away.

The actual money spent by the charity for these items, purchased in bulk, may be far less than we think, and some of these items may be made by clients that benefit from the charity.

The charity requests are a day-brightener for me! — Jan S., Harrisburg, Pa.

# PILGRIMAGE

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readying to place benches and to do food set up. People have been donating their time throughout the summer.

"We couldn't do it without all the volunteers," said Plante, noting they paint, weed and make beds. "During the course of preparation and the pilgrimage, over 200 people help in some way. If it wasn't for their help, we wouldn't be able to do it."

Volunteers are found among local residents and those who travel from out of state.

Byzantine Catholic churches in the district include St. Nicholas, Brownsville; Holy Ghost, Charleroi; St. Michael the Archangel, Donora; St. Stephen, Leisenring; St. Mary of the Assumption, Monessen; St. Mary Assumption, New Salem; St. Nicholas, Perryopolis; St. John the Baptist, Scottdale and St. John the Baptist, Uniontown as well as Holy Protection of the Mother of God in Morgantown, West Virginia.

Members of these churches and local communities are expected to be at Mount St. Macrina this weekend as well as pilgrims from as far away as Arizona and California.

Plante said, "I'm moved by the sacrifice they make to be at the pilgrimage. They say they can't imagine not being here."

The largest and oldest Byzantine Catholic pilgrimage in the nation is conducted under the patronage of the Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh.

Bishops who will participate include Archbishop William C. Skurla of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, Bishop Kurt Burnette of Passaic, New Jersey; Bishop John Pazak of Phoenix, Arizona; Bishop Milan Lach, apostolic administrator of Parma, Ohio; Bishop John M. Kudrick, bishop emeritus of Parma, and Bishop Gerald N. Dino, bishop emeritus of Phoenix.

Bishop Peter Libasci, of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Manchester in New Hampshire, is a guest. He is bi-ritual and celebrates the Divine Liturgy in the Byzantine Ruthenian Catholic Church. He will be homilist for the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at the Mother of God Shrine at 4 p.m. Sunday.

In a letter in the pilgrimage brochure, Plante examined this year's theme, "Mary: Life-Giving Spring" as she noted the uncertainty and stress of life leads many to thirst "for the presence of God, his guiding hand and his everlasting love."

She wrote the pilgrims call on Mary "to lead us to the fountain of spiritual gifts that we need to bring us to new and revitalized life."

A prayer service will be held at 7 p.m. Friday for pilgrims who are on the grounds. The opening Divine Liturgy is set for 10 a.m. Saturday with Burnette as celebrant and a welcome by Plante.

In addition to several Divine Liturgies, the pilgrimage includes processions, the sacrament of reconciliation (confession) and sacrament of anointing for the infirm, sick and physically challenged.

Enrichment sessions are offered Saturday and Sunday



FRANCES BORSODI ZAJAC | Herald-Standard

Ray Hanabeck, left, and Ted Stefancin Jr., both of Uniontown and on the maintenance staff, ride a Gator utility vehicle around the grounds of Mount St. Macrina in North Union Township. Staff and volunteers are preparing for about 5,000 pilgrims, who are expected to visit the site over Labor Day weekend as the Byzantine Catholic Sisters of St. Basil host the 83rd annual pilgrimage to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, the oldest and largest Byzantine Catholic pilgrimage in the nation.

with presentations on "Becoming a Living Icon" and "Bereavement."

The popular Festal Icon Walk will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday. Participants will gather at the gazebo near the House of Prayer.

Special activities are held Saturday and Sunday for children and teenagers.

The pilgrimage closes Sunday evening after a candlelight procession that begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Mother of God Shrine. This will be followed by a teen social in the prayer garden and a young adult social in the

Trinity Center.

A Divine Liturgy will be offered at 9:30 a.m. Monday for pilgrims who stay over Sunday.

Light lunch is offered during the pilgrimage at a food stand below the Trinity Center that includes kielbasa, chicken and salads, while stuffed cabbage is available at a food stand at the former racetrack. Medovniki, honey cookies eaten by pilgrims in an Eastern European tradition that goes back to the 17th century, are available in the Trinity Center courtyard.

The pilgrimage is a boost

to the local economy, with pilgrims making use of hotels, restaurants, service stations and local stores.

"The crowds aren't as large as they were a long time ago but we still get 5,000 people over the course of the weekend," said Plante. "Traditionally, it's a weekend for people to get their last taste of summer. I'm encouraged in this day and age that people are looking to deepen their relationship with God and will take time to do that."

For more information, contact the Sisters at 724-438-8644 or [www.sistersofstbasil.org](http://www.sistersofstbasil.org).

# FINANCE

Continued from C1

Many times one partner in the marriage handles all of the financial issues. This may include bill paying, managing the debt and being responsible for investments. If they are the one who passes away, it obviously causes immediate issues. The other spouse should gain an understanding of the financial goals and challenges. This will better prepare them for the future.

When someone becomes newly widowed, they should try not to make major financial decision until their emotions have settled down. These might include things like selling the house. There are things that they must do right away. Funeral arrangement must be made if they were not done in advance. Your advisors, such as attorney, CPA and financial adviser, should be notified. You need to determine your cash flow needs to have the money available to meet your life changes.

It is important to collect important papers like wills, trust, life insurance policies, employee benefit packages and other data.

Claims should be filed for benefits. The three credit bureaus should be contacted to place deceased alerts on credit files so no new accounts can be fraudulently opened. Short-term financial considerations might include creating a manageable budget and income plan. Deterring if the deceased had activities scheduled such as appointments, memberships, subscription or other things.

You will need to review titles on legal accounts, assets and investments. Make sure that you consider tax consequences of any changes. You will also have to file a final income tax return and maybe an estate tax return. The income tax return is due by April 15th of the year after the death.

It is difficult to deal with all of the issues during a period of mourning. With proper planning and preparation, this task can be a little less daunting.

Your *Financial Future* is written by certified financial planner Gary W. Boatman, MBA and CFP, who also wrote the book, "Your Financial Compass: Safe Passage Through The Turbulent Waters of Taxes, Income Planning and Market Volatility." If there is an area that you would like to see discussed in the column, send your suggestions to [gary@BoatmanWealthManagement.com](mailto:gary@BoatmanWealthManagement.com).

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