

DEAR ABBY

# Stylist splits hairs, loses regular client

**Dear Abby:** I was going to a hair salon about five times a year to have my hair cut and styled. A few months back, the owner, who had cut my hair, went on maternity leave, so another stylist cut my hair. I mentioned to her that my hair has thinned, that I hated how it looked and didn't know how to cut it anymore. She gave me a beautiful cut.



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips.

When the owner returned, I asked her to follow the cut, but she didn't do it exactly.

When it was time for my next haircut, I asked the other stylist to cut my hair again, but she hesitated. Her reply was, "If my son isn't sick." I got the message, and I am patronizing another salon.

I thought beauty salons were a business and not just about "I saw you first!" I'm unhappy now, and they lost a customer. Who wins?

— Cut short, Va.

**Abby says:** This wasn't "I saw you first." You were the owner's steady customer. If you wanted to change stylists, you should have had the courage to tell the salon owner and not put the other hairstylist on the spot.

**Dear Abby:** My husband and I have a 5-year-old and a 9-month-old — both boys. They are incredibly sweet, well-behaved, beautiful children. My problem is how people relate to the boys.

People often go out of their way to tell us how cute our

baby is, and go on to say, "He looks like the Gerber baby." I appreciate their compliments, but they often ignore our 5-year-old. He is also a darling child, but because he's so well-behaved, too often people don't give him a second glance. When we're at home I make sure to give him plenty of compliments.

Is there something I should say to the adults so they are more aware of my older son's feelings?

— Proud mommy of two

**Abby says:** The adults are thoughtless and insensitive, and trying to educate them in front of your 5-year-old won't work.

Put your arm around your older boy and say, "This is his big brother, 'Bobby.' We're so proud of Bobby because not only is he a good boy, he's also smart and sweet and helpful with his little brother." Bring Bobby out of the shadows and into the spotlight. It does work.

Write Dear Abby at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069

# Home embraces nature

REMODEL, from Page 1E

pressed her reservations about plunking Old World interiors into their traditional home.

The Old World decor would clash with the home's exterior and might dissuade future buyers, if the Zachs decided to move in a few years. What's more, she thought a bold Old World look would take away from Larry and Marcia's fantastic collection of African art, animal pelts and wildlife paintings.

"I wanted to see if I could allow the interior of the home to ... be more of a blank palette, to let the things on the wall be the focal point," she said.

She also steered them away from the knotty alder cabinets they'd been considering for the kitchen. The Zachs agreed, opting for more neutral cabinets and granite countertops. And Mason gave Larry and Marcia the knotty alder cabinets they had hoped for in the second kitchen in the basement ... where she was able to recycle their old appliances.

"I told them, we can do one or two of these rustic things, rather than a whole wall," she said.

The Zachs didn't feel forced into a look.

"(Mason) could work with a lot of different people and come up with completely different results," Larry said.

But by examining both interior and architectural design issues, she was able to thoroughly coach them through choices. And she wasn't afraid to tell them, "You won't get your money out of this."

"Instead of just doing cosmetic stuff, we got down to the guts," he said. "The house didn't take advantage of the setting. I can stand in almost any place now and see nature."

Larry can now sit at the large counter in their fully renovated kitchen, happily surrounded by outdoor views, no matter which direction he turns. Mason had to take out a wall to make that happen.

Mason helped the Zachs add light, storage and more of their personalities to the home. Some projects required major structural work, such as leveling out the first floor, which had a sunken family room that was causing guests to fall.

In Larry's studio, the windows are completely different from when they moved into the home, but only one is new. The rest Mason shuffled around with other windows in the walk-out basement.

A room-dominating bar in the basement was replaced with a more useful small kitchen with a single bar table. The area is perfect for when guests stay with the family and gives the Zachs extra oven space for the holidays. Plus, Mason felt the space had better potential for resale.

## YOUR 2¢ WORTH

Religious extremists, be they Christian, Jewish or Muslim, are making the world an unstable and unsafe place to live. I think it is time to apply the old Vietnam adage, "Kill 'em all and let God sort 'em out."

— East-side man

Our nation, which had been a nation of peace for years, has now become the war monger of the world. Thank you, Mr. Bush.

— Downtown Des Moines resident

I have been out of Maytag for a year.

\$3 corn, \$9 beans and the farmer



JOHN GAPS III / THE REGISTER

The living room of wildlife artist Larry Zach and his wife, Marcia, features neutral walls to let the couple's collection of African art and wildlife paintings be the focus. They also recovered the tile fireplace in rugged stone.

## Working with a remodeler

Smooth out the remodeling process with these tips from Mary Mason:

**1 Remodeling can mean many different things.** Sometimes a remodeler specializes in specific home repair projects. Other remodelers are full-service design builders. Assess your needs, then ask remodelers which services they provide. "Understand the scope of the work you want done," Mason said. She compares it to finding a doctor: "If you're going to a doctor for heart work, you don't go to someone for vein therapy."

**2 Find a remodeler you trust.** Mason said the relationship works best when the remodeler and homeowner can listen to each other's ideas. "My (role) is to say, 'What are you telling me you want, what do you have, and how do we combine budget and time frame to get it?'"

**3 Remodel or move?** Mason suggests sitting down with a design-builder and crunching some numbers before you jump houses. "What most people will end up doing with remodeling: They'll enhance their selection more than if they just got a new or different space."

Nor did she think stealing a bit of space from the six-car garage and increasing the size of the master bedroom closet would hurt resale.

They also focused on some cosmetic issues. With oak trim, oak wainscoting and oak cabinets, the Zachs felt like they should start watching for acorns in the fall. After some consideration, they installed new oak floors, but parted with the wainscoting. They also switched up some of the oak cabinets for other woods, giving the house a more sophisticated wood palette.

They chose natural colored carpets, neutral walls and re-covered the tile fireplaces in more rugged stone and

dark tile.

The Zachs loved a few of Mason's other decor ideas:

- Covering a rarely-used door with a large mirror improved the view down the stairs and made the downstairs space seem bigger. And the large mirror now offers reflections of Larry's paintings!
- Hiding a door to the mechanicals with swing out shelves to hold favorite sculptures.
- Mixing carpet and hardwood in their bedroom gave the appearance of wood covered by a rug, but cost much less.

Reporter Erin Crawford can be reached at (515) 284-8438 or ecrawford@dmreg.com

## TELL ME ABOUT IT

# Thou shalt not kill over her religious remarks

**Dear Carolyn:** My co-worker seems to have made it her mission to convert me. She treats every conversation as if it's a chance to make points about



Carolyn HAX

her religious beliefs. I can't congratulate her for getting shoes on sale without her saying something like, "The Lord favors his own!" If we're working on a project together, she'll say, "Oh, last night I was thinking about our report and the Lord told me we should ..."

I keep repeating that I'm not a believer. But, my inclination to be respectful of others' views seems to put me at a disadvantage with someone who doesn't respect mine.

— K.

**Carolyn says:** Your vocal nonbelief doesn't deter her fervor, it fuels it, which you must know.

But you can't make a point she refuses to take, especially not by undermining your own beliefs.

While you can't make her stop broadcasting her convictions, you can certainly live yours by declining to engage on faith.

There's no tug of war if you drop your end of the rope.

**Dear Carolyn:** I have a won-

derful partner, and I love his parents.

However, he grew up in a different household from mine. My experiences have been with tolerant, non-controlling parents, family and friends. He grew up with what he calls a passive-aggressive, controlling mother and an aggressive father (a former high-school coach).

During our visits, his mother is constantly baiting me into an argument.

I love my partner, but don't know if I can take the bait anymore.

— Duck and Cover

**Carolyn says:** Release your grip on the convenient roles you've assigned — the son, the coach, the mother and their victim.

A discussion is a chance for people to tell about views to understand and enlighten each other. A refusal to discuss is a refusal to entertain differing views.

So, what is a refusal to accept another's refusal to discuss? It's saying you won't tolerate not having your views heard. That's what you're doing, every time you try to defuse or deflect every bomb.

Take yourself out of it. Let them be who they are.

Write to "Tell Me About It," c/o The Washington Post, Style Plus, 1150 15th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20071 or e-mail tellme@washpost.com

## TODAY'S HOROSCOPES

CREATORS SYNDICATE

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Seek to understand your specific traits of character — even fall in love with them if you can — instead of looking at others and wondering whether those traits would suit you better.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You're thinking about the whole picture. Balance between the various areas of your life is as worthy a goal as you could want. When you're living right, all areas of your life head toward excellence.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** What you want from your loved ones, colleagues, employers and employees is loyalty. You want to know that what they do in your presence is the same as what they do in your absence.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** You do your work cheerfully and without being reminded. It's this, and not some grand gesture, that ensures that you will make a difference in the world.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** If you're wondering what people really think of you, you probably are catching the vibrations of their thoughts already. No, you're not imagining it. There's something to clear up so you are right with the world.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Trouble is caused by people acting silly. But try to have a sense of humor about it. Confusing moments at home can be avoided with organizational tools, such as a pen and paper by the phone.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** If you met yourself on the street, what would you think? That's practically what happens as the universe conjures up a situation that allows you to look in an astonishingly accurate mirror.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You find yourself working against strong forces — an emotional resistance training. You can't help but get stronger for this effort. Struggles end in

success.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You're braver than usual. Knowing your fear is the key to making a major success of this day. Because usually what you fear is what you most need to do.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** People who adore you want you to experience a slice of their lives. As much as you enjoy seeing the world through the eyes of your friends, tonight you can't wait to get home.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** New people come into your realm. You're not sure what to think yet. When in doubt over a person's character, check out his or her friends. Those relationships, in unspoken ways, tell all.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Momentum on the career front is a direct result of changes in your personal life. When you take a "do it now" attitude, it all gets done.

# SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

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Level:

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Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit

www.sudoku.org.uk SOLUTION TO FRIDAY'S PUZZLE

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