

Relatives being party poopers

Dear Annie: My extended family has always been big on celebrating family birthdays for the adults. Celebrations used to include a meal at a restaurant, but as the families expanded, we began celebrating at relatives' homes with appetizers followed by cake and ice cream.



Kathy Mitchell & Marcy Sugar

The problem is, these parties always take place at the homes of grandparents or aunts and uncles. The adult nephews and their wives never offer to host. They

also never offer to bring anything. We have hinted on numerous occasions that it would be nice if everyone contributed, but it falls on deaf ears. There are no financial reasons why they cannot step up.

We have tried to let it go, but at the most recent party, one of the wives stated that giving parties is just too expensive. She said they would not be organizing any more children's parties and that "someone else" in the family can throw one for the kids.

Two weeks later, we learned that the grandparents on the wife's side had hosted an extravagant party, and then the parents threw a "kiddo" party for the little ones and their adult parents. Only the adults from our side of the family were excluded.

We cannot tell these wives what we think, because every time we voice an opinion, they go on Facebook and accuse us of "bullying." We don't feel the need to give in to their demands, but we also don't want the children to suffer. We are all

— *Going Nuts in the Midwest*

Dear Going Nuts: These wives do not wish to contribute to or participate in their husbands' family events, and that's unlikely to change unless the nephews insist. You can still celebrate the little kids' birthdays with something smaller. Skip your adult nephews' birthdays and those of their wives. They aren't interested.

Dear Annie: Last year, my 91-year-old father bent over to pick up his morning newspaper, lost his balance and fell, breaking his shoulder. During Dad's recovery, it became apparent that my 89-year-old mother could not take care of him. My sister and I made the difficult decision to put both of them into the same care facility.

I've been going to my parents' house once a month to sort through a lifetime of memories, clean and repaint. In an effort to move the old TV console, I kept tripping over the cord. When I opened the two sliding doors to stuff the cord inside, I saw a bulging envelope. It was filled with smaller envelopes of \$100 bills, \$50 bills, \$20s and singles, totaling \$4,000. After I calmed down, I phoned my sister, and we put the money back into my parents' bank account.

I'm probably not the first child who has found a hidden treasure in a book or tucked away with the clothes. Tell your readers to be sure to take the time to do a thorough search.

— *Learned Something Valuable*

Dear Learned: You've told them, and we are certain they will be paying closer attention now. Found money is always a delightful discovery.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Young Empty Nester," who said she phones former mom friends for lunch or conversation, but no one returns her calls. She might need to examine her own personality traits.

I had three friends whom I rarely called back. One has mastered the art of eating, breathing and talking simultaneously. One cried and talked about her latest illness. And the other dominated every minute of every conversation lamenting her three-year-old divorce.

In an effort to be kind, I listened to their woes for years. But there comes a time when you must pursue more positive acquaintances. Those whose worlds revolve entirely around themselves are draining and have to be cut loose.

— *Maine Coast*

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column.

annie@mailbox@comcast.net

Keep Bermuda grass green through winter

Some people do not like Bermuda grass lawns because they go dormant and turn brown for the winter. However, Bermuda grass saves a lot of water (probably up to 50% over a bluegrass lawn) and is a tough lawn that will tolerate kids, dogs and golfers.



Neal Weisenberger

There are a few things you can do to make your Bermuda grass lawn look better in the winter. You can paint the dormant grass. You can buy turf colorant to spray your lawn green during the winter. The brown grass blades absorb the color for the winter. Be careful — if you mix the colorant incorrectly your lawn can look blue or an odd shade of green.

The other way to keep your Bermuda grass lawn looking green during the winter is to overseed the lawn with annual ryegrass. If you have an average sized yard it will only take you one day to complete the project. If you plan to overseed your Bermuda grass it needs to be done by the middle to end of October.

If you plan to overseed your Bermuda grass lawn you need to first mow it as close as your lawn mower will let you. Next thatch your lawn with a de-thatching machine. Most rental yards have de-thatchers available for renting — but make your reservation early they go fast on weekends.

Set the de-thatcher so that the blades just barely hit the ground when running. A de-thatcher is not an aerator; it is made to pull up the dead grass, not dig into the soil. Run the thatcher at an even pace over your lawn; it is not a race so walk slowly. Rake up the dead grass, and then run the de-thatcher over the lawn in the other direction. Again rake up the dead grass. Now mow the lawn as closely as possible to cut grass that was pulled up and to pick up the remaining dead grass. You can now plant the seed in your lawn.

You will need about 6 to 10 pounds of annual ryegrass seed per 1000 square feet (20' x 50'). Annual ryegrass normally comes in 25-pound bags so this will do about 2,500 square feet.

I find it best to seed heavily around the edge of the lawn by hand. I do this because the edge of your lawn area usually does not get as much water as the middle so less seeds germinate.

Also, if your lawn is thicker around the edge and thinner in the middle, it looks good; but if it is thick in the middle and thin around the edge it will look funny.

After the edge is seeded, spread the seed over the rest of the lawn area. Spread half of the seed



walking north/south, then spread the remaining seed walking east/west. This will give you a more uniform distribution of seed.

Once the seeds are spread you need to top dress your seed, meaning cover the seed with an organic material to hold the moisture around the seed to help germinate the seed. There are several products out but I use steer manure because it is the least expensive and does the job.

A one-cubic-foot bag of steer manure does about 150 square feet (10' X 15') if applied with a topdressing roller. A topdressing roller has holes in the roller that allows the topdressing to fall out and on to your lawn.

Now just water your lawn three or four times a day for a couple of minutes until the ryegrass germinates (about seven days). Don't panic — when annual ryegrass first germinates it is red colored — it's not diseased.

After the grass has germinated, increase the time

you run your sprinklers, and reduce the frequency or number of times per day you water. In a few weeks you may only have to water once a month as November and December comes around.

Once the ryegrass has been mowed one time, apply a little bit of fertilizer that contains nitrate as this will keep your ryegrass going through the winter.

In late spring to early summer, the ryegrass will start to die and the Bermuda grass will begin to grow.

Your cool season lawn can also be overseeded now if the lawn is thin and has dead spots. Don't overseed the cool season lawn with annual ryegrass but rather with the same type of seed that the lawn is currently. Seed a fescue lawn with fescue and a bluegrass lawn with bluegrass. Also do not de-thatch your lawn; just mow the lawn as you normally would and then spread the seed and topdress.

The last treatment for your dormant Bermuda grass is no treatment; just let the grass go dormant and give your lawnmower a rest for the winter.

SIT 'N SLEEP FROM PAGE D1

donations of money and materials, Habitat builds and rehabilitates simple, decent houses alongside homeowner partner families who are in need of suitable shelter.

Habitat houses are sold to partner families at no profit and financed with affordable loans, officials said.

The families must apply to local Habitat affiliates and are chosen based on their level of need, their willingness to become partners in the program, and their ability to repay the loan.

Sit 'n Sleep, Southern California's largest mattress retailer and sleep expert, will open its Gardena warehouse doors for the second annual Warehouse Sale from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Oct. 12, 13 and 14, where customers can grab deep discounts of up to 50% on everything from bedroom furniture to one-of-a-kind items, floor models, exchanges and overstock mattresses from leading brands such as Serta, Sealy, Sherwood, Simmons and even Tempur-Pedic, representatives said.

Sit 'n Sleep has partnered with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles to provide much-needed assistance to every family that moves into a Habitat home in 2013. The company will be adopting every Habitat for Humanity home built in 2013, company officials said, and providing hundreds of mattresses, frames and box springs for more than 80 families in the greater Los Angeles area, to ensure that every Habitat homebuyer will have new mattresses to sleep on in their new home.

"We are extremely proud to partner with Habitat for



Sit 'n Sleep

YOUR MATTRESS SUPERSTORE

Humanity of Greater Los Angeles and to ensure these wonderful families have the beds they need," said Larry Miller, founder and CEO of Sit 'n Sleep.

"A portion of the proceeds from the Warehouse Sale will help support this 2013 mattress donation, helping to provide families with a safe, comfortable and warm place to rest their heads. Everyone deserves a good night's sleep and Sit 'n Sleep is committed to ensuring that more than 80 Los Angeles families will have a roof over their head and a mattress to sleep on," Miller said.

In addition, Habitat for Humanity Greater Los Angeles representatives will be on hand offering customers an opportunity to leave good luck wishes on a newly constructed bench that will be given to a family after the sale, representatives said.

The Sit 'n Sleep warehouse is at 14300 South Main Street, Gardena, just off the Harbor (110) Freeway at Rosecrans Avenue.

Customers should park on the street and enter the clearly marked main lot through the security gate.

lroth@avpress.com

NEWSPAPER CRAFTS FROM PAGE D1

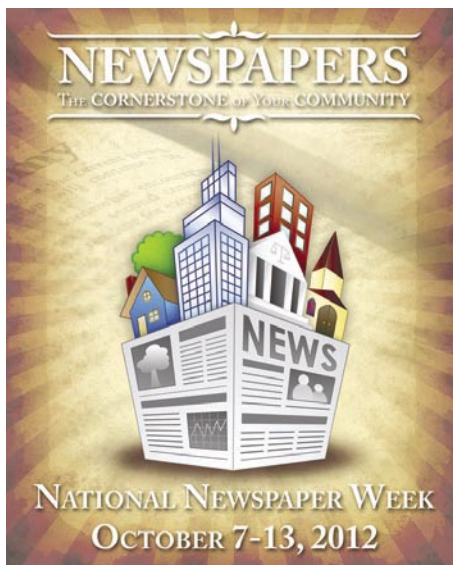
To make the basket's base, lay two strips in the shape of a plus sign and tape them together. (Tip: For taller containers, double the length of each base strip by taping two strips together.) Add four crosspieces to form an asterisk, as shown, taping after each.

Center the strips on the paper towel roll, then fold them down and use a rubber band to secure them, as shown.

Starting at the base of the basket, tuck a folded strip under one paper rib and secure it with tape. Begin weaving around the form, pulling tightly as you go. Tape the end in place. Continue adding strips in this way to achieve the desired height, leaving about 1 1/2 inches unwoven at the top.

Remove the rubber band and take the basket off the paper towel roll. Fold the raw edges inside the basket and tape them down.

lroth@avpress.com



National Newspaper Week 2012 is Oct. 7-13, the first full week in October, and has been sponsored by the Newspaper Association Managers since 1940.

According to the 2011 National Newspaper Association Community Newspaper Readership, 81% of community newspaper readers agreed that they and their families relied on their papers for local news and

information.

This year's theme, "Newspapers — The Cornerstone of Your Community," embodies the knowledge that while rumors of the decline and ultimate demise of newspapers are rampant, newspapers are still the number one source for local news and feature timely stories, provocative opinions, fabulous features and scintillating tales

of athletic prowess.

As newspapers carry on the tradition of providing stories their readers want to enjoy, papers will continue to be the cornerstone of their communities for years to come; National Newspaper Week is a celebration of that commitment.

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LAWN TIPS FROM PAGE D1

prepares the lawn for winter.

Use a low nitrogen fertilizer like Milorganite to encourage slow steady growth and prevent damage to already stressed lawns. Plus, research has found when microorganisms work on the Milorganite to release the nutrients they also make some of the phosphorous and potassium bound to the soil available to the plants. The phosphorous is good for root growth and potassium boosts hardiness and disease resistance.

Those in the south growing Bermuda, St. Augustine and other warm weather grasses can make their last

fertilization about one month before the lawn goes dormant.

That's about the time of the first killing frost. Fertilizing later can result in winter damage.

Northern gardeners growing cool season grasses like Kentucky bluegrass, fescue and ryegrass should make one application in early fall and their last application sometime between Halloween and Thanksgiving before the ground freezes.

And always sweep any clippings, fertilizer and other debris off walks and drives to prevent them from entering our waterways and eventually our drinking water.

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