

DEAR ABBY

Sister-in-law bitter when couple visit her ex

DEAR ABBY: My sister-in-law “Nancy” and my wife have a strained relationship, but they love each other and talk often. Every so often, Nancy becomes abusive with her wife. The ire stems from a messy divorce Nancy went through 15 years ago.

We have traveled to see Nancy’s son (our nephew) who lives with her ex, “Jim.” While we are there, we see them both and enjoy some quality time together. This aggravates Nancy, who feels that because (in her opinion)

Jim was solely responsible for the divorce, we are disrespecting her by visiting him. I think she should understand that we developed a relationship with him during their marriage.

We love Nancy, but we feel we are entitled to maintain the relationship with her ex. Are we wrong? Must we choose a side since she is so hateful toward him? — **WRONG SIDE IN TEXAS**

DEAR WRONG SIDE: Nancy is hurt and bitter that Jim left her, as well as possessive of you and her sister. Time has not mellowed her. You are not wrong to maintain a relationship with your former brother-in-law. As adults, you and your wife are entitled to have a relationship

with anyone you wish. (It is also understandable that you would want to maintain a relationship with your nephew.) That said, however, it would seem prudent for the two of you to disclose less to Nancy about your travels because she is so sensitive and emotional about it.

DEAR ABBY: My cousin’s son “Troy” is being married in eight months. I just received the “save the date,” and I’m trying to decide whether to attend. The wedding is out of state, requiring travel and a hotel. Troy and I haven’t spoken in years.

He has never shown an interest in getting to know me. The last communication I had with him was a thank-you note for

his high school graduation gift eight years ago. Once, when Troy, his brother and his mother were supposed to spend a day or two visiting me while on vacation, they decided at the last minute to visit other relatives in California. And last year, when the family was supposed to come for Thanksgiving, they rented an Airbnb close to my house, and then everyone made plans to do things without me. Needless to say, I was surprised to receive his “save the date.”

Must I attend? Should I attend? Should I send a gift, or simply convey my best wishes for a happy marriage, like I would to any other stranger or acquaintance? — **BAFFLED IN ARIZONA**

DEAR BAFFLED: Because relations with this branch of the family are so distant, I don’t think you need to go to the expense of traveling to be there. However, the polite thing to do to maintain some sort of family connection would be to send a gift to the happy couple, along with a card conveying your good wishes. (My intuition tells me you likely won’t receive an acknowledgement for your generosity, so don’t be disappointed.)

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



CAITLIN YAMADA, SIOUX CITY JOURNAL

Sioux City Public Museum education coordinator Miranda Valdovinos discusses Sioux City History Projects display dedicated to former Sioux City anchorwoman Cindy Deck now on display at the museum.

History

From A1

This year, landmarks like Harvey’s Family Restaurant, Bob Roe’s Point After and the Billy Boy Drive-Thru.

“Anything can qualify as a landmark, especially to a fourth grader,” Weaver explained.

Indeed, Weaver said she is a fan of a bling-adorned model depicting the Orpheum Theatre

as well as one created to look like Jolly Time Popcorn’s Coated Kernels retail store.

“I think the Jolly Time one is very clever,” she said. “The student even used real popcorn on the roof of the Coated Kernels building.”

Valdovinos was also taken aback by a model representing John F. Kennedy’s 1960’s visit to the Sioux City Stockyards.

“I’m a history buff and I know what JFK’s appearance at our

stockyards meant to the community,” she said. “I wouldn’t be surprised if the student had learned about it from a family member.”

Weaver noted this is what makes the Sioux City History Projects special.

“We want students to be able to learn about Sioux City from mom and dad as well as grandma and grandpa,” she said.

That was the case with a poster dedicated to Cindy Deck,

a pioneering news anchor who worked at three TV stations in 1970s and 1980s.

“The poster was created by Cindy Deck’s fourth grade granddaughter who is an obvious fan,” Valdovinos said. “I bet grandma and granddaughter had a blast working on this project together.”

While it is fun to see families share their personal history through local landmarks, Weaver knows other people will also a trip down memory lane.

“History doesn’t have to come from a book,” she said. “Instead, it can come from a shared experience at Bacon Creek Park or a meal shared at a local restaurant.”

Or in the case of Valdovinos, the car trips made by her dad.

“We still have relatives who come for visits from out of town,” she said. “We still take them to see the Sgt. Floyd Monument and War Eagle’s Grave. Those sites are now a part of my family’s history.”

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