

Message from Marcie

As we prepare for Thanksgiving, I would like to thank everyone for their patience and support this past year. This is my first newsletter in over a year and I appreciate the requests from readers, asking what happened to the newsletter. I have spent a lot of time on electronic media this year, leaving newsletter followers at a disadvantage.

It has been 5 years since I created *Organized by Marcie* and a lot has changed over time. I am pleased to let you know that you can find me on [twitter](#) and [linkedin](#). I am also writing for [successtelevision](#) and my own [blog](#). In 2010 there will be some exciting changes to my [website](#), as well.

Social networking is becoming a great way to meet and learn from other people. If you haven't tried using one of the networking sites, don't let yourself be intimidated; you can look around before you join. I will caution you that you need to pay attention to how much time you spend on these, or any other, websites. It is easy to allow the Internet to interfere with working toward completing actual goals.

As the year ends, consider the projects you began earlier this year or the things you really hoped to accomplish. Make some step forward, even a small one, to motivate yourself to keep moving. Even a little progress in the right direction is better than none at all.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year.

Marcie's Maxims:

Just because something is free doesn't mean it's a bargain. How much is it going to cost you to care for or maintain it? Do you need it? If not, why allow it into your life at all?

Cutting Back on Holiday Shopping

The day after Thanksgiving marks the beginning of the holiday shopping season for retailers. If the thought of shopping for family and friends overwhelms you, "shop" the advertisements to create a reasonable gift list and create a plan to avoid overspending.



If you purchased gifts in advance, go shopping at home before you go out to the stores, to avoid additional spending.

You can avoid the stress of holiday shopping altogether by observing *Buy Nothing Day*,

which falls on the Friday after Thanksgiving in the US and the Saturday after Thanksgiving internationally. The best part of this "holiday" is that you don't have to do anything to celebrate except abstain from shopping.

Ask people that you would usually give gifts to if they would be willing to try something different this year. Instead of giving each other things you may not need or want, suggest getting together for an activity that you would both enjoy.

Anniversary Celebration



This December marks five years of *Organized by Marcie* helping people find the time to do the things they love to do.

To celebrate, we are holding a contest. You can enter to win a P-Touch labeler by visiting

the *Organized by Marcie* blog and leaving a comment:

<http://organizedbymarcie.blogspot.com/2009/11/in-december-organized-by-marcie-will.html>

Watch for more exciting anniversary events during the year!

In absence of clearly defined goals, we become strangely loyal to performing daily acts of trivia.

– Unknown

Being Organized Can Help You Survive (And Thrive) In This Economy

People often say that they wish they had the money to hire an organizer. If you think of the time and money spent with an organizer as an investment in your success, it might seem like a better way to spend your money.

Whether you hire a professional, or work by yourself, here are some ways you can benefit from getting your home organized:

- Keep track of what you're spending. Look carefully at where your money goes so you can lower your spending and avoid buying what you don't need
- Clear out what you don't need and donate to charity. They need the things you don't want and you can get a deduction if you itemize your taxes.
- Take stock of what you already have. When you know what you have, you won't spend money buying duplicates of things you can't find.



- Plan your errands. You will save gas and maintenance on your car when you combine trips. You will also save time when you make a list of what you need to get so you aren't walking the aisles, trying to remember.
- Do less, to improve the environment. When you buy things and dispose of them (or their packaging), they end up in a landfill or have to be incinerated. Of course, you also save money when you buy less. Keep your appliances and your cars well maintained and they won't have to be replaced as quickly, which will save money and resources.
- Prioritize what's meaningful to you. When you know what is important to you and your family, you can spend more time doing those things and avoid the things that waste your time and money.

Activity Zone

This issue we are going to focus on creating a Gift Wrapping zone. Whether you wrap lots of gifts all year long or just a few at the end of the year, you can save time by keeping all your wrapping supplies in one place.

Stores like Target and Container Store sell specialized bins to keep your supplies under a bed or standing in a closet. If you have an empty dresser drawer or storage bin, those work well, too.

Gift wrap on a roll or in flat sheets, along with gift bags, can be stored in a tote bag or in a hanging bag on a closet rod.

You can find specialized containers to hold ribbons, but a shoe box works just as well to keep them together.

Keep bows in a separate shoe box so they won't get ruined. If you have a lot of bows, one way to keep them in good shape is to use a Christmas ornament box to store them; this also allows you to separate them by color, too.



You can store scissors, tape and gift tags in another shoe box so that everything is in one place, making gift wrapping easier.

Finally, keep a list of supplies that you have on hand so that when you shop the sales, you won't duplicate what you already have.

Success Story

Mary called for help in organizing areas of her home because she was feeling "stuck" and "out of control." While we began with moving paper, it quickly became apparent that the issues were not with the clutter, but with Mary's response to it.

She made incredible progress toward clearing out all the bad energy in a room she plans to use for meditating, reading and relaxing. She worked on changing her old paper habits and created an *Action* bin, which contained the remaining papers and gave her focus. We also talked about the behaviors behind the piles: belaboring decisions, reminiscing, and getting distracted, in addition to waiting for the perfect solution.

As someone who works from home, Mary faces the same challenge that a lot of us have: losing track of where your time goes because

you don't have deadlines or structure. When you don't have a supervisor looking for completed work, you need to keep in mind what your priorities are and finish what you start. Thinking about how you spend your time and creating a routine that you can keep up every day will help you stay focused.

Mary learned that it's important to be realistic about what can be accomplished and that sometimes what you planned doesn't fit into your life.

Having a positive attitude and working toward meeting your goals lightens your mental load and keeps you on track. Mary's commitment to the process led to positive changes in her entire house. Mary knows that organizing is a process and says, "The wonderful thing is not to feel 'stuck' anymore."



Gift certificates

If you want to give a meaningful gift to a friend or family member, consider a gift certificate from *Organized by Marcie*.



Instead of creating clutter or giving a gift that might not be “just right,” give the people you love the gift of organization.

Perfect for new parents, newlyweds, graduates, birthdays, anniversaries or any

occasion, you choose how much time you want to give, beginning with a three-hour minimum.

Call 301/219-3789 or email info@organizedbymarcie for more information about purchasing gift certificates.

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Call today for a free estimate from a Professional Organizer: 301/219-3789