

## Spring Clean Out

As you know, we have endured a very long winter with extreme cold temperatures and record snowfalls. But there is a light at the end of the tunnel, and I see and feel spring coming! And with that said, I love this time of year and working on spring organizing projects – and I know YOU will love the results!

I am pleased to give you a few practical tips to make the organizing projects manageable and get you the best results. Now is the time to put away all of the winter hats, gloves, scarves and boots. But before you do that, check the sizes and try to determine if your kids will be able to wear them next year. Can they be handed down to younger siblings, or if they are the last ones to live at home, is it time to donate them so others can enjoy the clothes? If the items are worn out and have holes, you can dispose of them. If your winter coats need to be washed or dry cleaned before putting them away for the season, this is the time to do it so they will be clean and ready to go next year.

In April, many towns have a spring garbage day pick up where you can put out any type of trash and recycling and it is picked up at no extra charge. Some of the towns have the dates at the end of April, so if you are searching for the dates in your town, search under "spring clean up collection" and you will find the information that you are looking for. This is a great incentive to dispose of unusual items that your normal garbage pickup does not take.

Another area to work on is your basement, which may be in need of organization after a long winter of use by

family members stuck indoors. You may have computer games, DVDs and electrical cords that need to be sorted out, donated or recycled. Review the cords that are not used or broken and organize what is left so they are easy to find and can be used with the right equipment.

Now is also the time to finally put away all of your holiday decorations that you just dropped near the shelves in the basement and left there. With the nice weather approaching you will not be staying indoors as much and you need to make room on the shelves for the holiday decorations. Is the reason they are not back where they belong because they do not fit? Take a few moments and look at the items on the shelves now and if you have not used or put them up in several years, do you think you will in the future? As for the decorations that you have been putting up, make room for them on the shelves and donate or throw away the ones you are not going to use in the future. Get them off the floor and move on to the other projects in the basement.

Also, look at the furniture that you have in the basement after the winter. Did anything get damaged and broken, and is it time to get rid of it now? Possibly put it out during the spring clean up pick up dates in your town, or if you have a lot of things to dispose of, consider using a junk hauling company. I have several companies that I can recommend to you.

So start to finally shake off winter by opening some windows, cleaning out areas that you have been meaning to get to, and dusting off some shelves – and then welcome spring with open arms!



## From the desk of **Elizabeth Fuchs**



I hope everyone was able to look beyond the winter weather inconveniences this past season brought us and enjoy the awe and beauty of the season. We received much needed moisture, the snow was beautiful at times, and I am sure the kids had fun sledding.

This year I am celebrating 12 years in my business, and I am so very grateful to all of my clients for whom I was able to bring happiness and clarity into their lives. Thank you again for your continuing referrals and trust.

Recently I have assumed additional responsibilities with the National Association of Professional Organizers (NAPO) by working on the Membership Committee for some National programs, as well as coordinating programs for our annual organizing conference. I am also continuing my work on the Ambassador Program for new members to the organization. Ultimately, my involvement in this national organization brings new, fresh and innovative organizing ideas to YOU!

I had the opportunity to see Peter Walsh, a TV personality and organizing consult and expert, at the Chicago Housewares Show again this year. We have communicated a few times in the past years and there is a picture of us on my website now. It is always great to share ideas and experiences with each other.

I hope you all enjoy springtime!

## **GARAGE ORGANIZATION**

With the winter season finally behind us, I am sure the garage is a dirty and unorganized mess and a place where everything was dumped! Wouldn't it be great to either get your car in the garage and/or make room so you can easily get out of your car and not trip over clutter?

I feel it is safe to finally put away and hang up the shovels and move the snow salt to the back of the garage. If you store a snow blower and lawn mower in the garage, switch them out so you can get to the lawn mower easily and be ready for the season. Put all tools away and back on the work bench in the garage or in the tool box.

Take a look at the kids and adult bikes and determine if the bikes are still in good shape and the right size for your kids. Kids grow so fast and the little pink bike that you had for your daughter may be too little for her or too "young" in her eyes, so it may be time to donate or get rid of the bike all together.

Also examine all of the bike gear that goes along with it. For example, are the helmets too small, are the knee and elbow pads worn out? Depending on the size and the condition of your garage, you may have had a few little intruders taking refuge in your garage and your items so please check before putting anything on.



If you have bins or baskets of winter gear, put them in the house or a closet that is designated for winter clothes. Look at the garden items that you stored in the garage last fall. Due to the harsh winter with extreme cold, did the soil, plastic containers and moss survive in the garage? Are they still in good shape, and if not, recycle or dispose of them properly. Some items may have been damaged and will be of no use when you start to do your gardening.

Garage spaces for the most part are limited, and what you keep there should be minimal. So take some time in the warm spring air to clean out and organize that area and say goodbye to winter!

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**REMEMBER:**

***AN ORGANIZED HOME IS A PEACEFUL HOME***