



- ✓ It's 2019! Can you believe it? I know I can't. I'm using a trick I learned from someone else and coming up with 3 words to be my focus for the year. I'm still deciding which 3 words will be keys for me. In years past, mine were:  
2017 - Relationships, Joyful, Living  
2018 - Adventure, Praise, Trust  
What would be your 3 words for this year?
- ✓ Getting help when getting organized is key. You can ask for help from friends, family or a professional organizer. I believe Helen Keller said it best when she said, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."
- ✓ True or False...  
I would love help getting organized, but I am too embarrassed to ask for help.
- ✓ Take ten minutes today and empty a cabinet or drawer of all of its contents. Then get rid of the items you no longer want (either trash or donate) and sort through what remains. Put like with like throughout the cabinet or drawer so that it is easy to see and retrieve when you need it.
- ✓ All magazines and "news type" papers that come into your mailbox do not have to be read. Don't put that pressure on yourself. If you receive items you didn't request (catalogs, flyers, etc.), just recycle them. If they are magazines that you purchased in the past and no longer have the time to read, cancel them. The less comes in, the better.
- ✓ Does going into your shower require you making your way through lots of shampoo, conditioner, soap and liquid shower gels? Take 10 minutes to go through all of them. Combine the duplicates into one bottle. Trash the ones that no one likes/uses. Only keep 1 of each type in the shower and put the remainders in a linen closet or under a sink for future use.
- ✓ Take 10 minutes today to clear out your mugs and cups. I bet you have a few special ones you use all the time and many that you never use. Consider donating the ones that always remain in the back of the cabinet and make it easier to put away the ones you like and use.
- ✓ Don't know what to make for dinner...use up all of those leftovers in the fridge and freezer. It will feel good to empty the fridge and nothing will go to waste. Plus, dinner will be a snap!
- ✓ Fill in the blank:  
My favorite organizing tool or gadget is \_\_\_\_\_.

- ✓ True or False:  
I have used a professional organizer's service before, but no one knows because I kept it a secret. (Sssshhhh, they think I did it alone.)
- ✓ I get myself motivated to organize by:
  - a. Playing Loud Music
  - b. Getting the Family Involved
  - c. I can't get motivated
  - d. Both a & b.
- ✓ If you have an extra basket or bin around, consider using it to corral all of your pet's toys each night. It will be nice to wake up to a toy free/squeaker free zone.
- ✓ Be sure to check all of your children's boots, coats, hats and gloves and insure they all fit and have what they need for the snow.
- ✓ When organizing your closet, turn all of the hangers in one direction. As you wear items and then return them to the hanger, rotate the hanger the opposite direction. After 6-12 months of time, any hanger that has not been turned has not been worn and should strongly be considered for donation.
- ✓ Do you live with someone who desperately needs to get organized, but no matter what you say or do, they just don't do it? Or, are you the person who is cluttering up your home and not taking action to fix the situation?  
Remember this from Timber Hawkeye, "Flowers only bloom when they are ready. People are the same way. You cannot rush or force them open just because you think it's time. Be patient."
- ✓ I'm all for downsizing and believe in the mantra that less is more; however, I don't know if I could live in a tiny house. How about you?
- ✓ Which is better...the relief you feel when you get rid of clutter or the excitement you get from shopping? Can you have both??
- ✓ Sometimes it is hard to get started. Sometimes progress is so slow, you may get aggravated. Sometimes it can be just overwhelming. But remember what Aristotle said, "Never discourage anyone who continually makes progress, no matter how slow." (especially yourself)
- ✓ This tip comes from a fellow organizer...take the time today to search your home for 10 items that you can let go of. You can donate, recycle or trash them as appropriate. Let us all know what you were able to release and how it made you feel.
- ✓ This week starts February! If you plan on having dinner out on Valentine's Day, you should make your reservation now. Also, you'll want to purchase your card before the stores run out. They don't generally have too many choices and once they are gone, they won't restock them. Also, if you need to order the gift you're purchasing, you'll want to do that ASAP so that it arrives on time.
- ✓ Event + Response = Outcome--Jack Canfield
- ✓ I love this quote, "Out with annoy, in comes joy."--Sarah Knight in "get your SH\*T together" It's so true, not only in life, but with your stuff. If an item doesn't make you happy why are you keeping it? Why keep the jeans you used to fit in to? They're just annoying you sitting there. Get them out!