

Lighten the LoadSM

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Organizing  Resources

Issue 13.12

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The Road to Financial Freedom

Step 11—Clear Vision

It is common for people to state, “I can’t afford that,” especially when money is extremely tight. In reality, you can afford whatever you want. It is not that you cannot afford something, but that you choose to spend your money on something different.

- You choose to have a home and pay the mortgage.
- You choose to have cable TV and a DSL line.
- You choose to buy new clothing.
- You have to eat, but you choose filet mignon rather than hamburger.
- You have to drink, but you choose Starbucks rather than water.

Many choices provide comfort and pleasure, whereas other choices may be inconvenient and difficult. Nevertheless, your basic needs are food, clothing and shelter. Everything beyond basic needs are choices.

As the year comes to a close and a new year beckons, keep in mind that you have a large number of options as to how you will spend your money. Choose wisely and strive to be debt-free in 2008.

Do you have a dream that has been sitting on the back burner just waiting for the opportune time? Have you ever said that someday you are going to do such and such? Are you waiting for the bells to ring on New Year’s day before you resolve to get started on your dream?

Here are a few tips from one of my favorite organizing books that will help you get an organized start.

- How you live is the direct result of all the choices you make minute-by-minute. Goals are achieved by doing a series of activities every day.

- Figure out what you want, then plan action steps to move you towards your goal. Knowing what you want will guide you with intentional decision making.

- Visualization techniques work. When you clearly see the results, you open the pathway to success.

- Identify your values and be sure they are in the forefront of all your endeavors.

- Don’t be afraid to dream the impossible dream.

- Success means accomplishing whatever *you* want out of life, not living up to

other people’s expectations.

- Be selective. Put the most energy and effort into those goals you most want to achieve.

- Write down your goals. When you take the time to articulate dreams, you open the channel to make things happen.

Organizing for the Creative Person by Dorothy Lehmkuhl & Dolores Cotter Lamping.



Click on the link below to learn more about other books I highly recommend.

<http://www.organizingresources.com/1books.htm>

Make a Difference... Act As If It Were So!

Michel de Montaigne, a French philosopher lived by the following motto: “A man is not hurt so much by what happens, as by his opinion of what happens.”

Dale Carnegie, an American trainer and self-improvement author, agrees with this concept that you are

affected more by how you think than by actual events. Thoughts dictate how you act and react.

If you want to be more organized than think and act as if you were an organized person. If you want joy in your life, than act like a joyful person. If you are searching for peace,

then act and think with quietude.

You may not be able to control or change events, but you can change your actions and reactions.

It is impossible to remain depressed while acting out the responses of being radiantly happy. Act as if it were so!

Simplify... Organize... Lighten the Load



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"One of the ways to bring balance to your life is to watch for the moments worth savoring, and then stop whatever you are doing in order to savor them. Moments like these are a fresh breeze moving through our spirit, softly untangling knots in our soul."

--Andrea Van Steenhouse, Ph.D.,
A Woman's Guide to a Simpler Life

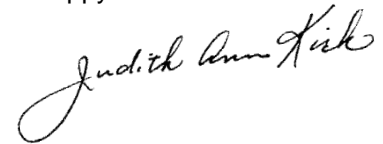
Organized vs. Neatness

There is a big difference between getting organized and being neat. A stack of papers piled on the kitchen counter can be neat, but if you forgot to pay last month's electric bill, you are in the grips of disorganization. A desk-top with very little on the exposed surface appears neat, but if you have to search for the stapler, then your neatness has left you frustrated.

Neat originally meant bright and shiny; thus the phrase "neat as a pin." Neatness is when you maintain a sense of tidiness, shipshape or spick-and-span. Many of my clients have neat clutter. They call for help because they have lost a valuable item and spent too much time searching through their neat piles.

Getting organized is being able to find what you want when you want it. With a New Year right around the corner, resolve to get organized, not just neatness. You will embrace a stress-free, more productive life when you simplify your life and organize your environment.

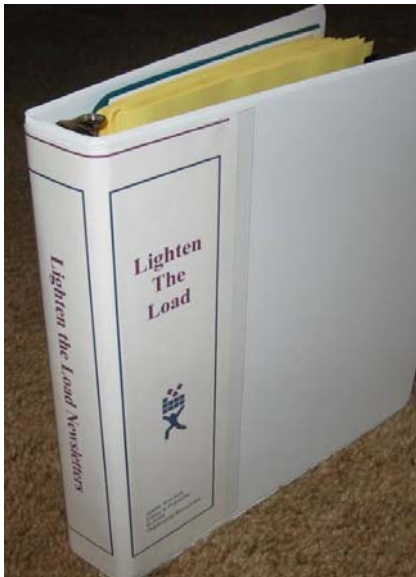
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



How to... Organize *Lighten the Load*

Here are a couple of suggestions to organize and manage your *Lighten the Load* subscription for past issues and upcoming issues.

- Organize email announcements by creating a new mailbox folder within your email system. Label it ***Lighten the Load***. As soon as each monthly announcement arrives and you have looked it over, transfer it to this special folder. Now you have all the announcements available for a quick reference.
- Organize the full printed version in a special ***Lighten the Load*** binder. This 3-ring binder allows you to put each printed copy behind a monthly tab to keep them at your fingertips.



BONUS

- Order by January 15, 2008 and I will include a complimentary copy of *Tools for Organization* with each binder.
- A complete 2007 *Table of Contents* and monthly dividers are included.

The cost is only **\$25.00** plus \$5.00s/h and Connecticut State Sales Tax (if applicable). There are extra shipping charges for international orders.

Order today! Have a place to keep all *Lighten the Load* newsletters for easy reading.

To order, send an email to:

<mailto:Judith@OrganizingResources.com>