



Hello,

Happy Leap Day to you!

What are you going to do on your extra day, February 29th? Some of you will carry on like it's just another day, others will call in sick and enjoy their favorite hobby, and others will attempt to check off something major off their "to do" list or "bucket" list.

Below, you will find two great articles on ways to use that EXTRA day to either start on your photo project or tips on how to banish clutter from your life for good. ENJOY!

Thank you,

Christie Gelsomino

[Scrapbook Designer Professional Organizer](#)

[Personal Photo Organizer](#)

Scrapbook Designer

[The Time is Now!](#)

Your photos are some of the most priceless things in your home—they contain your memories, special stories, and the meaningful moments you never want to forget. But are you treating them with the care they deserve? If your photos are scattered throughout your house, sitting in a dusty box in the back of your closet, or randomly stored on

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Vision to be Organized



your computer, you aren't protecting them, and worse yet, you aren't really enjoying them either!

By organizing your photos and memories, not only are you ensuring that they'll be around for years to come, but you'll get more enjoyment out of them, too. It might seem like a daunting task, but the secret is to start small. Begin by backing up your digital photos or corral all of your CD's into a handy CD binder.

Sort your printed photos into labeled envelopes and tuck them into preservation-quality boxes. If you're going to scrapbook, fill a binder with page protectors and slide the photos you want to use inside, along with any papers or embellishments.

When you're ready to be creative, just grab your binder and go.

There is no "right" or "wrong" way to organize-it comes down to finding the method that works best for you.

Your way may not be the same as your friend's and that's OK! There's no pressure to do it all at once, either. Break it into small manageable chunks-for example, sort photos while your watching tv at night. Every little bit helps get you closer to an organized system you can feel good about.

Don't put off organizing for another year-your photos and memories are far too precious!!!

Enjoy your photos!

Thank you,

Christie Gelsomino

Vision to be Organized

Tips on How to Banish Clutter from Your Life for Good

Studies show that 80 percent of what we use comes from 20 percent of what we own. That means that 80 percent of the things in our homes are rarely or never used. Follow these tips to de-clutter your life.

Christie Gelsomino



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Christie is a Premier Member of the Association of Personal Photo Organizers.



Resources

**START THE PROCESS OF DECLUTTERING.** Divide a room into sections. Pick one section (like one drawer or cupboard) and begin decluttering. Ask if you consider each item beautiful, useful, or loved. If not, you can probably get rid of it! If you're not sure if you should get rid of an item, ask yourself, "What's the worst thing that could happen if I toss this?" The answer may help give you the power to discard the clutter. Also be aware of the size of your space, as smaller spaces obviously hold less stuff.

**WORK WITH A BUDDY.** If you're having a hard time letting go of the clutter, enlist the help of a friend or professional organizer to offer an objective viewpoint. She can offer support and ask the tough questions like, "Are you really going to use that?" and "When will you ever wear that again?"

**TRY TO TOUCH THINGS ONLY ONCE WHILE GOING THROUGH THIS PROCESS.** Quickly make a decision to keep or toss. It will be helpful to have large, dark-colored garbage bags, plus two large boxes on hand: one for items to donate or give to friends, one for items that need to go to another room in your home. The bags are for items that need to go to the dump. (The dark garbage bag will keep you from seeing the contents and having "tossers' regret.")

**FIND AN APPROPRIATE HOME FOR THE THINGS YOU WANT TO KEEP.** Once you've removed all the items that are not beautiful, useful, or loved, you are left with a room full of things you'll use and appreciate frequently. Assign a space (a "home") for each item and be sure to return it there after each use. Remember, if you don't return each item to its home after use, it turns back into clutter and disorganization will occur.

**GIVE YOURSELF A REWARD.** At the



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end of a decluttering session, give yourself a pat on the back and a little treat, such as a bubble bath, a cup of tea, or a professional massage. Also take some time to enjoy the calm and tidy space you've created.

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Thank you,

Christie Gelsomino

**Scrapbook Tip:**

**Back up those pictures to not just one location: hard drive, flash drive, CD's, online storage, and physical/printed storage.**

**Organization Tip:**

**Recycle extra/old books and magazines. Donate them to libraries, senior centers and waiting rooms of doctor/dental offices, hair salons, and veterinary waiting rooms.**

**Thank you for reading this February newsletter. I truly hope you enjoyed it and gained valuable information from it. Also, please feel free to pass along this newsletter to others.**

**Happy Scrapbooking and  
Happy Organizing!**

Christie Gelsomino

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Christie Gelsomino with  
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is adding a location to  
her services:

**Salt Lake City/Park City, Utah**



Current locations include:  
**Los Angeles, California**



and

## Eastern Nebraska



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