

# Neapolitan

LIFESTYLE & CLASSIFIED



DOWN SIZ I N G   M A D E   E A S Y

## YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU!



**Get Organized**  
Marla Ottenstein  
Naples Daily News  
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

A few years ago I helped my mom de-clutter and organize her home, keeping only those items she needed, wanted, liked and used on a regular basis. While in the throes of figuring out what to keep and what not to keep, we also rearranged her accessories, knickknacks, lamps and artwork, giving her condo a fresh and updated look.

When we were done, my mother turned to me and said; "My home is in order. Now I can die."

At the time I thought this was a bit morose, but my mom, who is one smart cookie, is realistic and understands that none of her children wants to be burdened with disposing of all her "stuff" when she's gone.

To make the task of downsizing less daunting, I'd like to share some ideas:

**Don't let your "stuff" own you.** The simple act of paring down and taking control of the stuff in your life before it takes control of you will make the task so much easier.

**Why should I downsize?** Too many people have the attitude that when they're gone their kids can deal with it, just like they had to deal with their parents' stuff when they died. Thoughts to downsize by:

■ If you're moving into a smaller home, you will have less space; less space equals

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## Broadway's 'The King and I' coming to Naples

**Ashley Collins**  
Naples Daily News  
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

Rodgers & Hammerstein's "The King and I" first lit up a Broadway marquee in 1951, and has since captured the hearts of music theater lovers everywhere for its timeless characters and classic songs like "Something Wonderful" and "Shall We Dance?"

What's the secret to its longevity? "The characters are remarkably resilient," said Ted Chapin, president and chief creative officer of Rodgers & Hammerstein, an agency based in New York City founded by the great Broadway duo Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II.

"We're invested into who these people are," Chapin said. "At first, we watch two opposites (Anna and the King) who appear to be, in the beginning, at war with each other and we want to see them eventually warm up to each other."

"The King and I" is just one of the many stage and film musicals the agency owns rights to. That roster includes "The Sound of Music" and "Oklahoma!"

Bartlett Sher's Tony Award-winning revival of "The King and I" runs Feb. 7-11 at Artis—Naples.

The musical, set in 1860s Bangkok, tells the story of the unconventional relationship that develops between the King of Siam and Anna Leonowens, a British schoolteacher, who is called upon to teach the king's many wives and children.

The original Broadway production starred Gertrude Lawrence as Anna and Yul Brynner as the King. Brynner went on to receive an Oscar for best actor for playing the same role in the 1956 film alongside Deborah Kerr.

"A lot of people wondered if there would be life for "The King and I" after Brynner, and it turned out the answer was yes," Chapin said.

The beloved musical was brought back to life multiple times on stage and

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### 'The King and I'

**When:** Wed., Feb. 7-Sun., Feb. 11

**Where:** Artis—Naples, 5833 Pelican Bay Blvd., North Naples

**Cost:** \$85 to \$135

**Information:** artisnaples.org or 239-597-1900

**What to expect:** Dazzling sets, elaborate costumes, and classic songs like "Shall We Dance?" and "Something Wonderful."

**Music & Lyrics:** Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II

**Director:** Bartlett Sher

**Lead actors:** Laura Michelle Kelly as Anna Leonowens, Jose Llana as The King and Joan Almedilla as Lady Thiang

# Get Organized

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less stuff. Period. End of conversation.

■ Trying to move out of a five-bedroom house into a two-bedroom house without purging before you move is akin to trying to force a square peg into a round hole.

■ Death and grieving are emotional enough. Why burden your loved ones with more stuff to deal with than is absolutely necessary?

**Take emotion out of the equation.** Many people hold onto stuff for sentimental reasons, even though they'd be the first to admit to not liking, needing or wanting something. It's important not to burden your loved ones with the same guilt you've been saddled with all your life.

**My kids will figure it out.** Your kids — especially if they work for someone other than themselves — will probably have three, maybe four days max of bereavement leave to plan the funeral; clear out the contents of your over-stuffed house; sort through and organize the paperwork; and put the house on the market. And they probably live thousands of miles away, right?

Trust me when I say, if you don't purge and pitch, the only thing your loved ones will be feeling is anger and resentment as, in the midst of their grief, they face the job on their own. It will probably result in one of the following scenarios:

■ Your kids will call a professional organizer to sort through everything.

■ Your kids will call a junk collector to haul everything away.

■ Your kids might call a charity to help unload some of the stuff.

■ Your kids will put everything in storage and leave it for their kids.

■ Your kids will leave everything "as is" in the house for months (or years), oftentimes missing out on the opportunity to sell the house.

## How do you let go?

Choosing what stays and what goes is like picking your friends. The goal is to surround yourself with only those things that make you happy. It doesn't matter what you paid for something or what you think it's worth; when it comes to letting go, ask yourself:

■ Do you love it?

■ Do you need it?

■ Have you used it in the past year?

■ Will it physically fit in your new home?

■ Will it "fit" your new lifestyle?

■ Is the cost of keeping something worth the expense?

## I'm saving it for my kids

■ Your children, who are probably baby boomers

themselves, don't want or need anything, as they're trying to get rid of what they have so as not to burden their kids.

■ Understand that what's important to you probably isn't important to your kids.

**My collections.** Remember, you're not alone in your quest to consolidate, declutter and downsize. And just because you enjoyed collecting frogs (or mice or glass paperweights) doesn't mean your kids want your treasures.

**Postcards, maps and more stuff.** With the advent of the internet, who needs maps, hotel brochures, menus and ticket stubs to the Paris catacombs? I cannot begin to tell you how many bins, boxes and piles of travel memorabilia I've seen children throw away, all the while wondering why their parents held onto these things for so long.

**Photos, slides, undeveloped film, video recordings and 8mm movies.** If it's really that important, convert and/or scan the images to a flash drive for posterity. If a photo has a special place in your heart, why not tell your kids why and then move on?

Getting rid of things you don't use and don't need is the greatest gift you can give your loved ones.

*Premier Professional Organizer Marla Ottenstein offers expert residential and corporate professional organizing services. Licensed & Insured. Member: National Association of Professional Organizers. Her column appears on the first Friday of each month. For more information: ProfessionalOrganizerFlorida.com or on Facebook: [www.Facebook.com/ProfessionalOr](http://www.Facebook.com/ProfessionalOr)*



**Believe me when I say your loved ones don't have time to sort through all the "stuff" you refused to get rid of later in life. In most cases, they will instruct the lawyer to have someone haul everything away as junk.**

MARLA OTTENSTEIN/SPECIAL TO THE NAPLES DAILY NEWS

*ganizerFlorida. Send questions about how to get and stay organized, to be addressed in future columns.*