

## ***Happy Valentine's Day***

February 13, 2017

### **Memorabilia & Card Storage**

Valentine's Day means a lot of cards sent and received and how wonderful is that? It's great to express love and affection by sending a sweet card but people can get overwhelmed with what to do with them once the holiday has passed. I recommend a memorabilia box for exactly these things: cards and letters from loved ones that you want to keep. It doesn't have to be fancy, but a box large enough to hold what you have and room for more.

However, you DO need to be judicious on what you are saving. A hand written card is much more meaningful than a card with just a signature. Evaluate if you REALLY want to hang on to something before putting it in the box.

### **Organize your jewelry**

In honor of my getting engaged not on Valentine's Day, I'm suggesting that you all go through your jewelry to declutter and organize. Match up earrings, untangle chains and necklaces, and group like pieces together (rings, bracelets, necklaces, earrings). Now seriously evaluate what you wear and love and what you don't. If you've got pieces that you no longer wear, think about passing them on to a friend or family member.

Sometimes what you are tired of or just don't like is perfect for someone you know. You could host a jewelry swap with your friends, preparing some of these yummy recipes and wines, and have everyone bring their no longer loved jewelry to share with each other. Donate what is left over.

### **Organizing a spouse**

I am asked all.the.time about how to organize a spouse or loved one. While I wish I could wave a magic wand and have systems I've created be instantly adopted by ALL members of the family, the reality is not everyone sees or appreciates organization the same way. It's like the 5 Love Languages: everyone perceives organization in their unique way. Some people are visual and want to see everything on a counter or they'll forget about it, some people like to have files organized alphabetically while some prefer to group by category; some people adopt a zero inbox policy—all great options.

This means that there is no one size fits all solution and you can truly only organize yourself. You can show others how YOU have it organized and solicit their input for their needs but understand that it will require some habit changes, which always take time. You can't change others but you can change yourself. Set the example first and then you can show the benefits you've experienced by being organized, like feeling less stressed and in control, saving time, energy, etc.