

Discover Organizing: *What Keeps a Memory Alive?*



Jill Yesko, photo courtesy of Matt Polk Photography



By Fran Joyce

You can't help someone effect change in their life unless you can show them the value of making changes. This is especially true when it comes to organizing. According to Jill Yesko, a professional organizer and president of Discover Organizing, "When we walk into a home or business, we enter people's lives, and what might be clutter or junk to us are often treasures with deep sentimental meaning to our client. We have to respect that and find a way to safeguard these memories."

This is often true for senior adults. Jill is active with the Aging in Place Council. While some seniors downsize and move to smaller more manageable homes, others prefer to stay in their family home for as long as possible. "It's our goal to make the home as safe as possible and adapt it to their changing needs. Getting rid of bulky items that can restrict mobility and eliminating stacks of old newspapers and magazines that could be fire hazards are essential."

"The key to a successful experience is communication. When I talk with a senior about something they want to keep whether it's a large dining room table or an old valentine, it's often clear they view the object as a 'witness' to the events of their life. The table represents holiday dinners surrounded by family, and the valentine symbolizes a lifetime of love and commitment. They fear if they get rid of the object it will invalidate their memory. It's our job to help them separate the two. They look around their home and wonder how a lifetime of memories could ever fit into a two bedroom condo or an apartment at a retirement community. We videotape and take lots of pictures. We put them in an album our senior can display at their new home, or in their newly organized home. We also put everything on a memory stick for safe keeping. We can make digital copies for their

kids or grandkids. These become great conversation pieces. Seniors love that they can take these treasured memories with them wherever they go."

The same philosophy often applies when our children graduate high school or college, leave home, or get married. What happens to their trophies and the years of art projects, handmade cards, and gifts?



Discover Organizing can photograph and videotape you and your child with these items and create a lasting memory for you both. Trophies can then be recycled and put to good use for future generations; there is a record of their achievements without the boxes of paper. You both get a fresh start without losing those special memories.

Discover Organizing is the only photo organizing company in the South Hills with a bulk scanner that can scan 1,000 photos in an hour. The fee is \$50 and the items are backed up in the Cloud. You receive a thumb drive with all your photos on it.

The employees at Discover Organizing are bonded; they have passed rigorous background checks as well as health screenings to insure they are physically capable of performing the services you need.

Contact Discover Organizing at 412-344-3450 or visit their website, discoverorganizing.com to learn about the services they offer. You can also email Jill with questions at jill@discoverorganizing.com.



Playroom before organized



Playroom after organized



Garage before and after photos

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