

# COMMUNITY ARTS PARTNERSHIP



Our mission is to strengthen the arts in Tompkins County by supporting artists and arts groups, ensuring equitable access to the arts, and cultivating a creative culture that reflects our community's diversity.

[ArtsPartner.org](http://ArtsPartner.org)



Left: Marietta Synodis, CAP's Spring Writes Literary Festival / Senior Theatre Troupe, GAP Grant / Ithaca Welcomes Refugees mural (GAP Grant). Middle: Kathy Lucas dance performance (GAP Grant) Bottom: Lily Silly Puppets (GAP Grant) / Ann Reichlin's Arts Education Grant project, Caroline Elementary / East Hill Jazz Group // CAP ArtSpace exhibit

**This powerpoint presentation  
accompanied a workshop/talk  
“Organize Your Space For Creativity to Flow”**

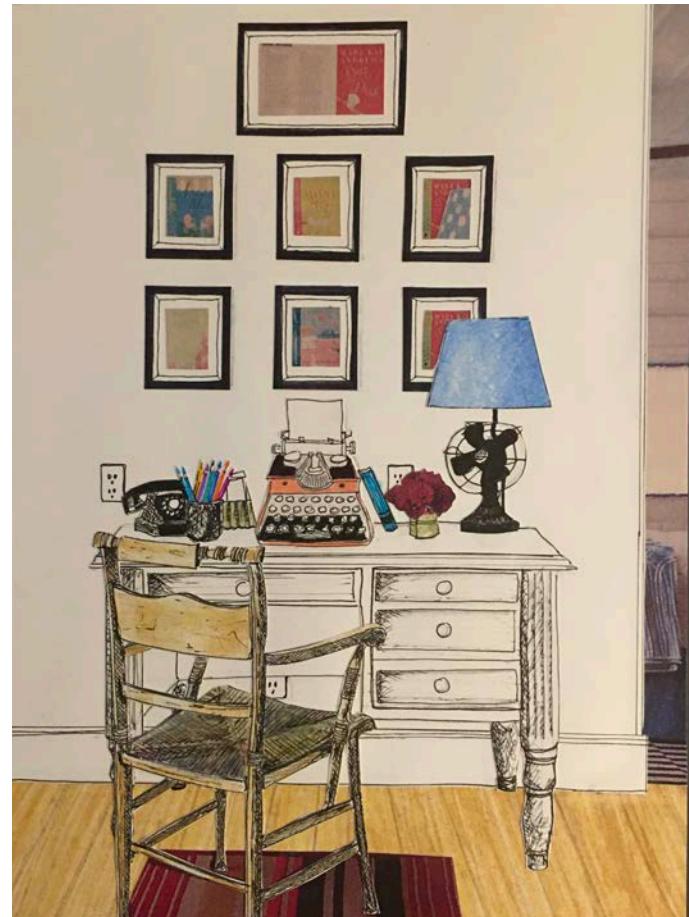
**The recorded presentation will be posted on the  
CAP Website, [ArtsPartner.org](http://ArtsPartner.org) workshop page  
by January 26, 2026**



## Organize Your Space for Creativity to Flow

with Robin Schwartz

Thank you to our workshop and networking event sponsor



# Tonight's Presentation

Is your studio or workspace a source of inspiration?

Or it is a chaotic mess?



Does your space fuel your creativity or hold it back?

This is a practical workshop focused on decluttering your space to help your creativity flow freely.

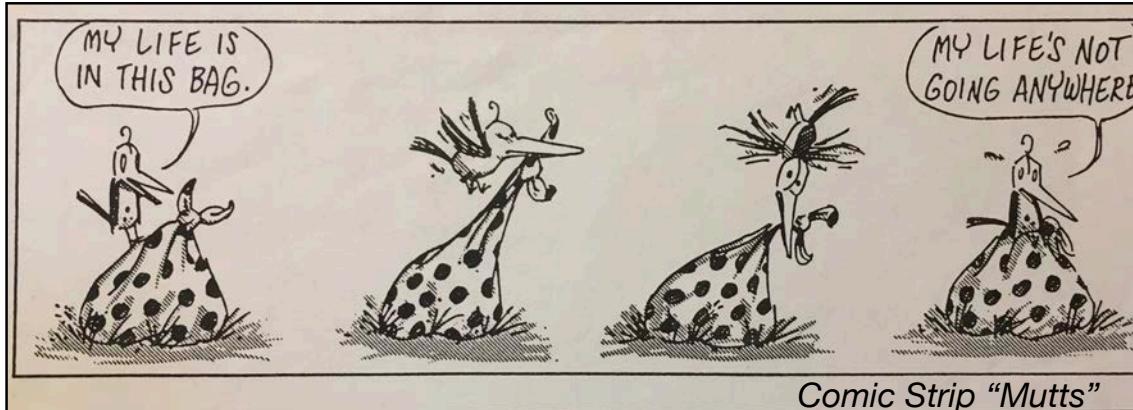
# Agenda

- What is clutter?
- What is clutter costing you?
- What happens when you declutter?
- Establishing goals for your space
- Decision making made easier
- A step-by-step decluttering guide
- Organize what's left!

## What is Clutter?



# What is Clutter Costing You?



## Does this Resonate?

We are holding on to so much of the past (old stuff) and the future (I might need this someday) that we have no room for the present.



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# Questions to Ask Yourself

- Can you function well in your home or studio?
- Can you find what you need?
- Do you lose things a lot?
- Or do you forget what you own?
- Do you feel stress in your space?
- Do you feel stuck?
- Do you feel inspired?

## Benefits of Decluttering

With an open and clutter free space in your home or studio you will discover that the room you create externally begins to fill you internally.

Clarity, perspective, focus and a sense of openness all come with a clutter free space.



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# Decluttering & Organizing are Separate Projects!

Free  
Yourself  
From  
This



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Before  
You Can  
Create  
This



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Donate unwanted art and craft supplies in usable condition.

[rachelfeirman.com/CreativeReuseOfIthaca](http://rachelfeirman.com/CreativeReuseOfIthaca)

For sewing and knitting:

[SewGreenIthaca.com](http://SewGreenIthaca.com) in Press Bay Court

Now Open!

## Creative Reuse Shop at Art & Found

Located right next to Pastimes in Dewitt Mall | 215 N Cayuga St,  
Ithaca, NY

Open Wednesday-Sunday, 12-6pm

Closed Monday & Tuesday



About ▾ Shop ▾ Services & Programs ▾ Donate ▾ Volunteer Resources ▾ News ▾ Contact ▾

# DONATE GOODS



Enhancing community, economy, and environment through 'ReUse'!

Thank you for considering a donation to ReUse! We accept donations at our drop-off locations. Our donation acceptance is based on space availability. We have the right to turn away any donation that does not fit our needs.

Questions? Please call (607) 257-9699 to verify drop-off locations, as donation policies can change without notice based on space availability.

### What We Accept

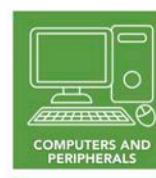
Finger Lakes ReUse accepts quality used and surplus building materials, furniture, housewares, clothing, books, media, electronics, and much more. Your donations may be tax deductible and we will provide a donation receipt for your tax purposes upon request at the donation drop off location. All items must be complete, clean, and in good usable condition.



FURNITURE



ELECTRONICS



COMPUTERS AND PERIPHERALS



CLOTHING, SHOES & TEXTILES



BUILDING MATERIALS



BOOKS



APPLIANCES



TOOLS



DVD, CDs, VHS & VINYL



HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

# What Are Your Goals?

- **How do you want to feel** when you walk into your space?
- **What do you want to be able to do** that you can't do now?
- How would you like the room to look?

**For Example: “I would like...”**

- to have clear counters and tables.
- to have organized art supplies so I can find them easily.
- to have room for visitors.
- to have room to run workshops.
- to not be embarrassed by my space.
- to not be stressed by all my stuff.
- to not feel overwhelmed.
- **What percentage** of your stuff would you need to get rid of to meet your goal?

## Make This Fun!

Let's think of decluttering with these empowering words:

- Editing
- Refining
- Refreshing!
- Release.
- Freedom
- Joy
- Meaning
- Purpose



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# The Goal is To Be Inspired



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## Sparkling Joy



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# Making Decisions

## Thoughts that get in the way:

- I might need this someday - I'm not sure!
- As soon as I get rid of something, I need it.
- It was a gift.
- I've had this for years so it must be important.
- I won't contribute to the landfill.
- This is important information.
- This might be worth money.
- I want to save this to give to (friend, family...)
- I paid a lot of money for this.
- I can repair this.
- I'm going to finish this project someday.

## Things to Consider

- Stop struggling to find a use for something.
- How many of a certain item do you need?
- Is this item still viable?
- Do I have the time and energy to take care of new tasks?
- Does the item come with a good memory or a bad memory?
- Does this belong to someone else and can I return it?

# Take the Path of Least Resistance



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## Step by Step Decluttering

### **Mentally Prepare - Think about your goals**

- How do you want your space look?
- How do you want to feel when you enter?
- What will you be able to do that you could not do before?
- How much stuff would you have to get rid of to reach your goal?
- Are you ready to live with less stuff to have the space you imagine?

# Step by Step Decluttering

## Declutter & Editing: Tips

- Always declutter before you try to organize.
- Develop the habit of making quick decisions.
- Don't worry about needing long periods of free time.
- You can declutter in just 15 minutes at a time (or less).

# Step by Step Decluttering

## Sort into Containers:

Boxes or bags

## Label them:

- Recycle (paper, plastic)
- Garbage
- Donate (Reuse, etc.)
- Elsewhere (has to be returned to someone or goes in another room)
- Storage (optional container)
- Needs more thought (optional container)

With this system, you can start and stop at any time without making a mess!

# Step by Step Decluttering

## **Start in one corner, one drawer, one area**

- Instead of thinking of an entire room, focus on one tiny area at a time.
- Pick up items.
- Do you feel a rise or drop in energy?
- Each item goes in one of the boxes...
- OR if you are keeping something, just leave it where it is.
- Do not try to organize anything until you finish the decluttering process.

# Step by Step Decluttering

- Work in small blocks of time.
- Enjoy the process!
- Think about the concept of editing, refreshing, refining.



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# Step by Step Decluttering

If you can't make a decision because you don't remember what you own, gather similar items together so you can decide how many of a certain object you need.



Credit: PhotoAlto/Laurence Mouton / Getty Images

# Step by Step Decluttering

## **When a box or bag is full, get it out of your house!**

It will be empowering to keep getting stuff out rather than waiting until the entire project is done.

- Empty the garbage
- Recycle the recycling
- Return items to other places in your home
- Put donations in a car
  - If donations are going to multiple places, label the bags (or container) so you remember.
  - If you told yourself you were going to bring things to multiple places and months go by, can you just bring it all to reuse?

# Step by Step Decluttering

## Keep Asking Yourself

- Is keeping this in line with my goal?
- Does it enhance my life or bring me joy?
- Or does this keep me stuck.
- Is this ruined or expired?
- Does looking at this item make me feel good or bad?
- Do I want to take the time to deal with this again?
- Is this a project I don't have to do?
- Are you thinking, "but I should..." (Let it go)
- Can someone else enjoy this?
- Is keep this worth the space it takes up?

# Step by Step Decluttering

## Pull off the bandaid.

- Letting go can be painful for a minute.
- Be ready for the ping of pain and then do it anyway.
- Don't let the ping stop you!
- You will likely feel relieved later.
- If you can't make a decision, leave the item where it is. Getting rid of clutter is like peeling an onion.
- When done, go over it all again and see if you can get rid of more stuff!



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# Group, Contain, Label

When you have edited to your satisfaction, it's time to organize what's left!

## The basic principles are:

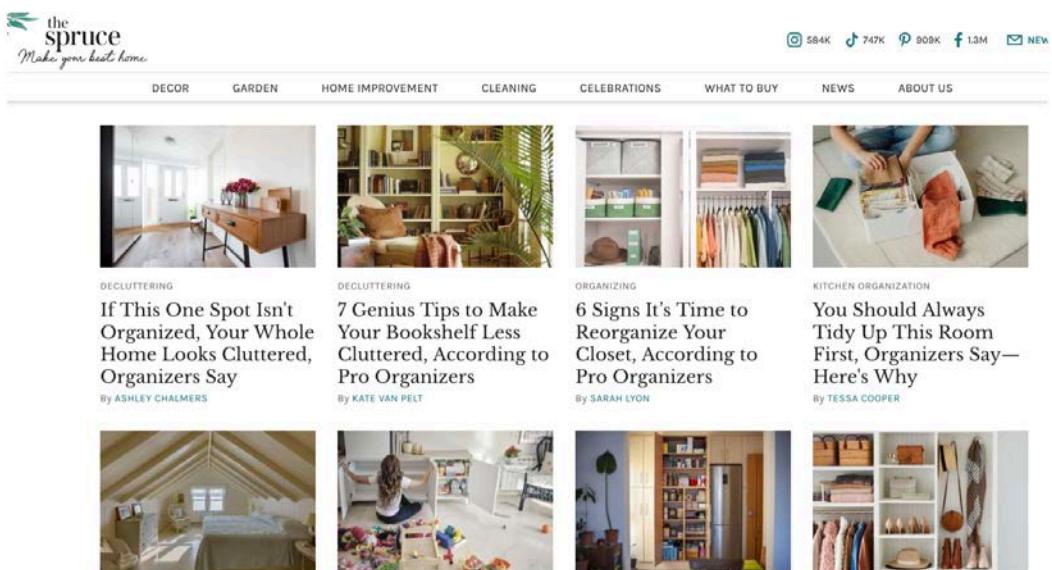
- Gather like items together.
- Designate a place or container.
- Label it.
- Store items close to where you need them.
- Items you rarely use can be stored.
- Make it easy to put things away.



## Get Ideas

There are thousands of sites and images online for organizing ideas. Google “organized studio.”

Images on the following pages are from [TheSpruce.com](https://www.thespruce.com)



The Spruce logo: Make your best home

Instagram: 584K, Twitter: 747K, Pinterest: 808K, Facebook: 1.3M, Email: NEW

DECOR, GARDEN, HOME IMPROVEMENT, CLEANING, CELEBRATIONS, WHAT TO BUY, NEWS, ABOUT US

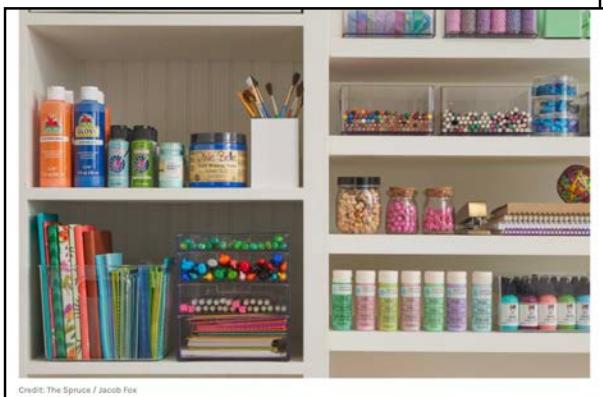
**DECLUTTERING**  
If This One Spot Isn't Organized, Your Whole Home Looks Cluttered, Organizers Say  
By ASHLEY CHALMERS

**DECLUTTERING**  
7 Genius Tips to Make Your Bookshelf Less Cluttered, According to Pro Organizers  
By KATE VAN PEET

**ORGANIZING**  
6 Signs It's Time to Reorganize Your Closet, According to Pro Organizers  
By SARAH LYON

**KITCHEN ORGANIZATION**  
You Should Always Tidy Up This Room First, Organizers Say—Here's Why  
By TESSA COOPER

# Get Ideas



## Organize Your Space for Creativity to Flow





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# Thank you!

Stay tuned for more events  
and workshop by CAP!

**[ArtsPartner.org](http://ArtsPartner.org)**