



The Gift of Time

One of the most memorable times of my life was a trip with my father to Florida where we were able to spend some one on one time together. We left my mother and 5 brothers and sisters at home. I felt so special and loved. There's not one piece of memorabilia that is reflective of that trip, yet I have never forgotten it. The memories are burned in my mind because spending that time together was so rare and significant to me.

Every day of my work life I help encourage people to let go of things that don't serve them. When asked why they feel the need to keep something, it is always because of the memories invoked. A broken chest of drawers that lives in the basement was a favorite grandmother's or how a friend gave them this un-used cup and saucer for their birthday. People keep things they don't use or don't even like because they think the "thing" is the memory or hold the love of the gift giver.

This Holiday Season try something different. Give the people you love the gift of time rather than more things for them to store or put on a shelf (or floor in many homes). Tell those that will be buying you gifts that you would like a weekend away with them, a meal together at your favorite restaurant or to go to a show, play or concert together.

In this area of plenty I can't think of one thing more that is going to make our lives any more meaningful. Nothing can feel better than giving someone the gift of your attention, focus, love and time for both of you. And nothing would make me happier, as a Professional Organizer, than if you didn't have to hire organizers to clear away clutter, but instead to streamline your life towards your goals. And while you're at it, DON'T make the mistake of giving gift cards. They are a license for the recipient to go buy more stuff. Even worse yet, losing the card and forgetting they ever had it. I find more unused and expired gift cards and gift certificates than I care to mention. Many of them forgotten and stuffed in an envelope passed their expiration date. The marketing folks know this. It even has a name...slippage.

The collage consists of several pages from a magazine titled 'TOWN TALK'. The top page features an article titled 'deck the town hall' with a photo of a decorated Christmas tree and a small illustration of a house. Below it is an advertisement for 'A Trail of Gifts' with a photo of various handmade items and text describing a craft fair. The bottom left page has an article titled 'New Look ...' with a photo of a book cover and text about a children's book. The bottom right page is the 'GIFT OF TIME' article, which includes a photo of a snowman, a quote from the author, and a 'creative giving' sidebar with tips like 'make the recipient the recipient to a place they have never been' and 'make a surprise account that is geared towards a particular goal like college or travel'. The magazine footer indicates '20 WESTPORT DECEMBER 2008'.

Here are some ideas for a Holiday not to be forgotten....

- ✓ Plan a weekend away together at a spa or Bed and Breakfast
- ✓ Take the family on a vacation to a place they have never been
- ✓ Book them into a class you know they would love
- ✓ Open a savings account that is geared towards a particular goal like college or travel
- ✓ Have someone put together a short DVD of pictures and put it to music to make it fun. Then watch it together. Mac's have an excellent photo album option that is both inexpensive and very impressive.

Don't add to someone's clutter this season. Add to someone's memories. Make them feel special. Give them the gift of your time.

Many blessings and Happy Holiday's to you all.

Betsy Krobot
Betsy K Home Choreography, LLC