

Beloit Daily News
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I've been on this minimalist kick since late last fall. After reading several books and blogs on the topic (imagine that, a librarian reading...) I decided that if something didn't bring me joy or have a practical, immediate use, I was going to get rid of it. Luckily my husband Phil is very good at killing centipedes, so he made the cut. I spent many a cold winter's night in the basement sorting through storage containers, pitching tattered papers and even tossing some blurry photographs. I went from eleven containers down to only three and cleared out lots of knick-knacks and miscellaneous household items along the way.

Although I cleared out a lot of clutter there were items that I just couldn't bring myself to get rid of. For instance I came across my Preschool report card and found this little nugget of wisdom written by my teacher: *Jennifer is quite dependable and likes to be a leader. She sometimes becomes a little impatient and aggressive if others do not conform to her wishes.* I read that out loud to the above mentioned husband and without skipping a beat, he asked "Is it possible for a Preschool report card to successfully predict the future of a marriage?" I might need to rethink keeping him around...

Maybe I've inspired you to think about ways to reduce clutter in your home but you aren't sure what to do next. The Beloit Public Library is the perfect place to get started. Looking for the latest bestseller to read? Check it out from the library and when you return it, poof, no clutter. Have boxes full of books accumulated from a lifetime love of reading? Donate them to FABL (Friends at Beloit Library) for their book sale area. Want to read about how others have mastered the art of decluttering? We have books, books and more books that will have you eating off of one plate with your spork and drinking out of your only cup before you know it.

In between all the cleaning out, be sure to look for these books available at your Beloit Public Library:

Clear the Clutter, Find Happiness: One-Minute Tips for Decluttering and Refreshing Your Home by Donna Smallin. Finally, a way to get rid of the clutter -- and keep it away -- without making the process a full-time job! Organizing and cleaning expert Donna Smallin shows you how to enjoy the happy, healthy, inviting home you long for with hundreds of time-saving tips and solutions to your clutter and cleaning problems. Her approach is manageable and simple, helping you focus on the things that will make the biggest difference with the least amount of effort and time.

Living Simple, Free and Happy: How to Simplify, Declutter Your Home and Reduce Stress, Debt and Waste by Cristin Frank. Get ready to trade in headaches and hassles for life skills, exchange clutter for money, transform eyesores into beautiful focal points in your home, and say goodbye to over-consumption and hello to genuine experiences.

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