



Hello!

My lead article this month is about getting organized and the second article is about simplifying your life. They seemed to fit together.

And don't forget the sidebar for information on local performances by Shakespeare by the Sea for some culture, entertainment and just good fun.

Cindy Chew

Disorganization in the Home Costs You in Time and Money



If you have ever lost important papers for your kids school or sports activities and wasted time looking for them, misplaced bills and had to pay late fees, or started to do your taxes and can't lay your hands on all the receipts, a home office organization system would definitely simplify your life!

Wall-mounted bill organizers can help you stay organized. Look for ones with two or more compartments to categorize by due date. Mount shelving and create a file system for important papers, such as insurance policies, warranties and tax receipts. Look for under-utilized space, such as converting a standard closet into built-in storage with shelves and cabinets for your papers, files, and office equipment.



Since the kitchen is often the hub of the home, it has a tendency to clutter. Straighten out yours by adding small plastic or wooden drawer organizers for loose things like thumbtacks and rubber bands. To avoid buying your third jar of oregano or second potato ricer, buy



or build an organizational system for your pantry. Get yourself some stacking graduate shelves that can organize your spices so you can see them all at a glance.

To better utilize cabinet space, get some sturdy stacking shelves for your dishes. Built-in lazy Susans work great for organizing pantries as well as baskets to corral specific food types. Use mini shelving to round up items like dressings, hot sauces, and vinegars. Tackle cabinets by mounting behind-the-cabinet-door racks to hold items like pot lids or cutting boards. Add pull-out drawers in your bottom cupboards to make everything easily accessible and easy to see. You'll thank yourself when you get older, too.



Backyard Upgrades That Will Simplify Your Life

Install Composite Decking:

Not so many years ago, composite decking looked about as natural as a used tire. No longer - today's varieties do an excellent job of mimicking the color and grain patterns of real wood such as redwood, cedar, and even exotic woods like Brazilian walnut and teak. And it is low maintenance because it won't chip, splinter, or fade. There's none of the periodic application of deck cleaner or the refinishing required of wood decks. Composites won't rot and are impervious to insect attack. Types with antimicrobial coatings won't harbor mold & mildew. It's made of recycled materials, including plastic bags, sawdust, and plastic milk jugs. Scrub with soap and water every 2 to 3 years to maintain its good looks. A 20- to 25-year warranty is typical with a price of \$25 to \$70 per square foot, installed.



Add An Irrigation System That Knows When To Water (and When Not To): A weather-sensing, water-conserving irrigation system waters your lawn and landscape plants without your input. It gathers local weather data and automatically adjusts output to provide the right amount of moisture for your landscape's growing needs. If you take off on vacation, an automated system continues checking weather conditions and applying the proper amount of water to your trees, shrubs, and lawn.

Some automated irrigation controllers meet EPA guidelines; the EPA estimates that switching a clock-operated system to a weather-sensing saves the average homeowner 8,800 gallons of water each year. That's good for the environment, and money in your pocket. You'll save on sleep, too. Program your system so that, while you snooze, sprinkler heads run during the wee morning hours, when temps are cool, evaporation is minimal, and water usage is optimized. Although the system itself needs periodic upkeep, such as draining the lines in winter and occasionally fixing or replacing sprinkler heads, you'll more than recoup your time by not having to water your plants yourself or setting sprinklers by hand. Warranties include one year for parts, and up to 10 years for some wireless sensors with a life expectancy of 50+ years for pipes; five to 25 years for sprinkler heads and valves. Cost varies from \$2,500 to \$6,900 for a sprinkler system covering 5,000 square feet; DIY kits for similar size run \$1,400 to \$1,800.



In This Issue

Organize!

Simplify!

Shakespeare By The Sea



Shakespeare By The Sea



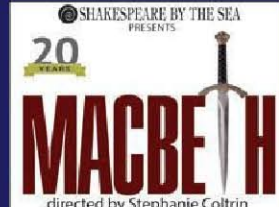
Celebrating its 20th season, Shakespeare by the Sea presents two productions staged at venues throughout the South Bay. Performances of *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Macbeth* will take place over the course of the summer.



When rebellious Katherina stands in the way of her younger sister Bianca's marriage, fortune hunter Petruchio is enlisted to "tame" the elder daughter, freeing a path for Bianca's motley suitors. From their first meeting, sparks fly and the ultimate battle of the sexes ensues - leaving us to wonder, who is taming who?



Macbeth, "By the pricking of my thumbs, something wicked this way comes." Seduced by supernatural prophecy, Macbeth and his Lady embark on an ambitious quest to win the Scottish Throne. In the aftermath of their success, we glimpse a world torn apart when a volatile, paranoid tyrant becomes King.



Manhattan Bch
Polliwog Park
1601 Manhattan
Beach Blvd.
August 11 at 7 pm:
Macbeth

August 12 at 7 pm:
The Taming of the Shrew

Rancho Palos Verdes
Terranea Resort
100 Terranea Way
August 17 at 7 pm:
Macbeth

San Pedro
Point Fermin Park
807 W. Paseo Del Mar
August 18 at 8 pm:
Macbeth

