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Motherly advice on life and home

Mom's never stop being founts of unasked-for opinions

Don't talk with your mouth full. Stand up to shake hands. You catch more flies with honey than you do with vinegar.

One benefit of being a mom is that you get to dole out unasked-for advice. It goes with the job.

The same is true for home design columnists. As the mom of two, stepmom of three, "glamma" to five, and a home and lifestyle columnist, I am a virtual fount of unasked-for opinions.

You know where this is going and you're right. I am going to abuse my position and the occasion of Mother's Day to tell you what I think, and, more to the point, to tell you what I've learned mostly the hard and painful way over the decades, so just maybe you can avoid the same trouble.

After I scratched down a few of my maxims for this column, I bothered my two, 20-something daughters, who have endured my unsolicited advice longer than anyone else and who are only slightly scarred. I asked them to recall advice I had baked into them. They delivered. The exercise proved a) they did hear me, b) their memories are superior to mine, and c) whatever goes wrong in their lives is my fault.

As the list grew, I was surprised — though why should I be? — to see how much of my advice about life, love, work, and what to wear, also applies to home design. Then, I never could see the line between



AT HOME WITH
Marni Jameson

where home design stops and home life begins, because there isn't one.

So, this Mother's Day, please indulge my advice-dispensing nature and see if any of the following unsolicited advice is worth heeding.

- They can't win if you don't play.

The comparison game is a cancer. Compete where it counts, perhaps in school or at work, but not where it doesn't. You will always find someone who is faster, skinnier, richer, prettier, or smarter, who has a fancier car or a better house.

And that only matters if you let it matter. Those who want to lord whatever they have over you can't win if you don't care, compare, or compete. Make your home beautiful for you and those you live with, not to impress anyone else.

- Make up your mind up in a moment of strength; don't change it in a moment of weakness.

When deciding to do something difficult, like leave a job, end a relationship, move to a new city, or choose lipstick color or bathroom tile, think it through when you're calm and clear-headed. Consider the options and ramifications.

Then, once you've made up your mind, go. Don't chicken out or re-visit the decision when you get that acid feeling in your stomach. It's OK to be afraid, but trust yourself and keep moving.

- The closer something is to your body, the nicer it should be.

When I originally shared this advice with my daughters, I had undergarments and pajamas in mind. (Don't cheap out in these categories.)

But the tenet includes anything that touches you. That includes bras, boyfriends, and bed linens.

- On fashion: You can wear short. You can wear low, and you can wear tight. But you can't wear it all at the same time. Pick one.

It's fun to be a girl and to look attractive. It's another to look trashy. In home design, every room needs a spike, a little eye candy, like a pop of color, against a backdrop of restraint. When everything in a room says look at me, the room loses its allure.

- Make your bed every day.

We've been over this, but this single habit lets you start every day with a small achievement. It builds discipline and creates a sense of accomplishment that will spill over into the rest of your life. Trust me. (While you're at it, pick up your clothes.)

- The right thing and the easy thing are rarely the same thing.

The right thing is passing up that third brownie. The right thing is listening politely to an older relative share political views you disagree with and keeping quiet. The right thing is also cleaning out what's accumulated in your closet or garage. Make getting rid of stuff that's taking up space and congest-

ing your life a habit. I know, it's easier to close the door on the mess and binge watch "Yellowstone" or eat ice cream out of the carton. Do the hard thing. It builds character.

- Take charge of your time, because a task will expand to fill the amount of time you have.

Don't let a project eat up more time than it warrants. Define your priorities and put your efforts where they matter.

Yes, keep house, but don't spend all your time fixing up your house or all your time working to pay for your house. Your house is supposed to serve you, not vice versa. Spend your time wisely. It's all you have.

- Your job is to figure out your gifts and use them to make the world better.

SEE **MARNI, 3H**



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MARNI

FROM PAGE 2H

I've told my kids this as long as they can remember. And, by gosh, they heard me. Apparently, my gift is doling out unwanted advice. And so, if over the years, and perhaps today, I've led you to live a little better, and a little more beautifully, hey, I'm just doing my job.

Oh, and here's one last bit of advice: Listen to your mother.

Marni Jameson is the author of six home and lifestyle books, including "What to Do With Everything You Own to Leave the Legacy You Want," "Downsizing the Family Home – What to Save, What to Let Go," and "Downsizing the Blended Home – When Two Households Become One." You may reach her at www.marnijameson.com.



No doubts When you're in the middle of a home remodel and wonder what possessed you to do this, remind yourself that you decided to do this in a moment of strength — now don't second guess in a moment of weakness. Experience suggests it will be worth it. Photo courtesy of dreamstime

HD-474918

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for SALE

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13 Hamilton Place, South Hills
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Turn your yard into a vacation-worthy oasis

Over the last few years, families have become especially familiar with what works about their yards and where there is room for improvement. Pandemic-related travel restrictions and early stay-at-home mandates resulted in plenty of time spent in backyards on staycations. Even though many such restrictions have been lifted, homeowners may have seen the benefits of having functional respites right outside their doors.

A backyard renovation can cost anywhere from \$5,000 to \$50,000. The American Society of Landscape Architects suggests homeowners budget the cost of a major landscaping project at be-

tween 5 and 10 percent of their home's value. Large or small, here are ways to make an outdoor oasis at home.

Create living privacy

Living in close proximity to neighbors may make privacy harder to come by. Wood or vinyl fences, however effective, may not provide the all-natural look many people desire. Vertical gardening, which trains easy-care vines like English ivy, Clematis or various climbing roses to grow on trellis or fencing adds greenery and privacy. Hedges and fast-growing shrubs also can be used for natural barriers.

Install a pool

Pools are the ultimate spots to cool off on hot days. An elaborately shaped inground pool can blend in with the landscape and offer the ultimate hang-out zone. However, above-ground pools also serve the purpose and are more budget-friendly. Stock tank pools are popular among those who want minimal pool expenditure or have small spaces to work with. Stock tanks are metal vessels traditionally used as watering holes for livestock. They also can be "adult kiddie pools" when combined with some plumbing. Galvanized steel frames make them sturdy. With floats and other accessories,

they can become the perfect oasis.

Provide outdoor atmosphere

Create a bespoke bistro vibe by using freestanding planters and posts along with hanging lights to make an intimate outdoor hang-out spot at night. For those with permanent structures, like a deck or a gazebo, lights can be strung across the area or on railings or edging.

Extend the living space

Decks and patios can help make outdoor entertaining areas more comfortable by eliminating the need to sit on the grass or gravel. Plus, they add another

"room" to the home. When paired with weatherproof patio furniture, such as sofas, loungers and tables, a private seating area can be crafted and utilized for any number of entertaining desires.

Hang a hammock

Few things evoke feelings of relaxation better than a hammock. Fitted between two trees (or two posts if trees are sparse), a hammock is an ideal place to grab a nap or read a book.

Additional oasis-inspired ideas include outdoor kitchens, letting up lanterns, cascading water features, and bird feeders to attract the sounds of nature.

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Plan the ultimate patio party with this checklist

If you're like many people, you're more than ready to gather friends together. Whether you're planning the bash of the century or just want to turn a run-of-the-mill afternoon into a bonified party, use these tips to make your outside gathering pop:

Great food

Barbecues are always popular, but you don't need a huge grill set-up to entertain guests outdoors. In warmer weather, you may prefer to keep guests cool and well-fed with light bites like Vietnamese summer rolls, charcuterie, fresh dips, seasonal veggies, cold pasta and fruit salad.

Fun games

Keep spirits high with fun activities. Lawn games like cornhole, Spikeball and oversized Jenga are perennial favorites. For those that prefer to take it easy, be sure to include games that can be played at the table, like Cards Against Humanity and all of its various iterations. Do you and

your friends have a competitive streak? Set up a bracket system and host a knockout tournament. Winner gets bragging rights until the next party.

Surprising libations

Hard teas are trending, hard. They make for a delicious daytime sipper on their own, but can also serve as the perfect base for warm weather cocktails -- especially when they're made from authentic ingredients. Lagunitas' Disorderly TeaHouse, a 100-calorie, gluten-free, premium spiked, sparkling tea is brewed using guayusa leaves -- an Amazonian botanical herb -- and features natural fruit flavors, like yuzu lemon, raspberry and blackberry.

Try it alone or make this simple slushie recipe your party's signature cocktail: lagunitas.com/story/disorderly-teahouse-slushie.

Great jams

The right music can make a good party great. Be the perfect

host (and DJ) by just hitting play on this already carefully-curated playlist, such as one from Spotify. Be sure to make the most of your playlist with high-quality, durable speakers designed to deliver great sound in outdoor spaces over the revelry. Those that link to other Bluetooth speakers are a good choice for creating surround sound -- perfect for that impromptu dance party.

Take the party into night

Should your party extend into the evening, you'll want to be prepared. Remember that at dusk, the bugs come out in full force, so consider citronella candles to ward them off. For cool nights, consider having a heat lamp or smokeless portable fire pit on hand to keep guests nice and toasty. For ambiance and to illuminate the fun, hang string lighting or paper lanterns.

With this patio party checklist, you can give every party you throw this season something a little extra. (StatePoint)

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Monday, May 16th at 6:00PM**

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Highest Bidders**



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0.10+/- Acre Lot as Assessed

Subject Two:

703 Serene Drive – Charleston, WV

948+/- Sq Ft Home
2 Bedroom, 1 Bathroom Home
0.10+/- Acre Lot as Assessed

Subject Three:

906 Grant Street – Charleston, WV

1,408+/- Sq Ft 2-Story Home
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Subject Four:

1640 Washington Street W – Charleston, WV

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**Questions? Please call Taylor Ramsey, Agent
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TUESDAY, MAY 17TH @ 5PM
AUCTION HELD AT: 4402 MALDEN DR., CHARLESTON
 Sub 1: 4402 Malden Dr., Charleston, WV
 Colonial Style 2 Story Home on 0.5+/- Acre Fenced Lot
 Sub 2: 409 Wayne Dr., Charleston, WV
 3 Bedroom, 1 Full Bath
 Sub 3: 415 Wayne Dr., Charleston, WV
 2 Bedroom, 1 Full Bath
 Call Taylor Ramsey (304) 552-5201



12 Beckley Homes

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18TH @ 11AM
AUCTION HELD AT: THE RALEIGH COUNTY COURTHOUSE
SECURED PARTY REAL ESTATE AUCTION
 See Online for Full List and Details
 Call Debbie Flanigan (304) 841-6020



Updated 3-Bedroom in Charleston

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18TH @ 6PM
831 WASHINGTON ST W, CHARLESTON
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 2-Story - 1,356+/- sqft Home. 0.06 Acre Fenced Lot (as Assessed). Hardwood Flooring in Parts of Home
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1.5 Acre Multi-Use Property in Hurricane

THURSDAY, MAY 19TH @ NOON
3925 & 3919 TEAYS VALLEY RD., HURRICANE
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 Subject 2: 702 3rd Ave, Montgomery, WV
 Subject 3: 407 4th Ave., Montgomery, WV
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- *Tue. May 17th – Cleveland – 4-Bedroom Home, Restaurant and Store/Former Gas Station with Apartment
- *Tue. May 17th – Huntington – Versatile Commercial Building Minutes from I-64
- *Tue. May 17th – Charleston – 3 Properties Five Minutes from The State Capitol
- *Wed. May 18th – Beckley – 12 Beckley Homes LIVE BIDDING ONLY
- *Thu. May 19th – Hurricane – 1.5 Acre Multi-Use Property in Hurricane
- *Tue. May 24th – Jackson, OH – Deerland RV Park & Resort on 65 Acres
- *Tue. May 24th – Mount Hope – Move-in Ready Home on 70 acres Selling to the Highest Bidder
- *Wed. May 25th – Williamson – 5 Bedroom Home
- *Wed. May 25th – Logan – 3-Story Commercial Building with Parking in the Heart of Logan
- *Thu. May 26th – Saint Albans – 2 Homes with River Views
- *Thu. May 26th – Huntington – 3 Bedroom Pea Ridge Area Home
- *Tue. May 31st – Charleston – Well-Maintained 3-Bedroom Ranch
- *Wed. June 1st – Barboursville – 3 Bedroom Ranch Home on 25 Acres
- *Tue. June 7th – Huntington – Updated 4 Bedroom Brick Home
- *Wed. June 8th – Saint Albans – Storage Unit Facility & RV Storage on 1 Acre River Lot
- *Thu. June 9th – Charleston – Huge 2 Story Home with Additions

ONLINE ONLY

- *Tue. May 10th – Milton – Equipment, Tools, Signs, Antiques, and More!
- *Wed. May 11th – Prestonsburg, KY – 83 Acres Ideal for Hunting & Camping
- *Wed. May 11th – Hurricane – 4 Lots in the Fiddler's Green Subdivision
- *Mon. May 16th – Charleston – 4 Charleston Properties Selling to the Highest Bidders
- *Wed. May 18th – Charleston – Updated 2-Bedroom in Charleston
- *Wed. May 18th - Saint Albans – 1926 Dodge Brothers Coupe – Sells to the Highest Bidder!
- *Thu. May 19th – Pratt – 2 Bay Garage with Office Selling to the Highest Bidder
- *Thu. May 19th – Montgomery – Apartment Building, Home, & Building Lot in Montgomery
- *Mon. May 23rd – Huntington – 2-Bedroom with Many Updates
- *Thu. May 26th – Hurricane – Lot Behind Hurricane Middle School Selling to the Highest Bidder
- *Thu. June 2nd – Huntington – 2 Huntington Homes Selling to the Highest Bidders
- *Wed. June 8th – South Charleston – Two Half Acre Properties with Mobile Homes in South Charleston



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House of the Week

THE COURTLAND

5 BEDROOMS
3.5 BATHS



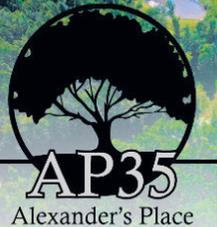
The Courtland

The Courtland (3003 sq. ft.) is a 2-story home with 5 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms and 2-car garage. Features include dining room, master bed downstairs, walk in closets and large upstairs family room. Optional basement can increase the total living area to 4,380 sq. ft.



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