

SEASONAL

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thought that was a lot.

Myquillyn (pronounced *MIKE-willin*): It's true. I still don't remember my zip code. But, looking back at all those moves, they were the best design education ever. You learn so much setting up a house. (Indeed!)

Marni: In your book you say, "Hosting is never about the host, and hospitality is never about the home." Talk about that.

Myquillyn: Like everything, I had to learn that the hard way. Having friends over used to be about me. I used to

always feel like my house wasn't ready enough, or nice enough, or perfect enough. But now I see a red flag when I'm having people over, and I'm concerned about my outfit and whether my house is up to snuff. If that's what I'm worried about, I'm not in the best place to host. Hospitality is grace with throw pillows. It's being in a place where we can connect. People miss out on connection when they focus on trying to impress others.

Marni: What's the best way to host a no-pressure get-together?

Myquillyn: My husband and I are big fans of the last-minute text invite. "Hey, want to join us for drinks in the back

yard after dinner?" Such an invitation clarifies that there's no food involved, so no one expects a meal or has to put on fancy clothes, and you don't have to fuss with the house, except to clean the toilet. I like low-expectation hospitality.

Marni: What did you learn while writing this book?

Myquillyn: I wrote this book out of frustration. The frustration was me scrolling on Pinterest and seeing all these wonderful fall décor photos. I remember one that had dozens of plastic pumpkins lining the stairs. Don't get me wrong. It looked stunningly beautiful. But I thought, "Is this the standard? Is this

the new bar?" I love seasonal décor, but buying every beautiful thing clogs up our lives and our homes. We do not need to go to Hobby Lobby and buy 67 plastic pumpkins that we'll store for next year.

Marni: What else do you wish more people knew?

Myquillyn: To decorate for the season, you don't have to rely on store-made factory décor. It's more fun to go to a farmers market and find that big, quirky pumpkin; set it out all season; and throw it away after Thanksgiving. Then you honor nature and don't have to store things in the attic.

Marni: You talk a lot about not letting our things boss us around. What do you mean

by that?

Myquillyn: That all those things you save year over year become the boss of us. We need to take back control. A big part of creating a home is paying attention to what our houses are saying. Some things in a room are bossy; some colors and styles are bossy. I don't want a silk sofa bossing me to be careful. Our stuff needs to serve us, not vice versa.

Amen, sister.

Syndicated columnist *Marni Jameson* is the author of five home and lifestyle books, including "Downsizing the Family Home - What to Save, What to Let Go." Reach her at www.marnijameson.com.

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1624 Loudon Heights Road, Charleston
\$849,900

Fantastic South Hills Beauty. Custom built all brick home has every top of the line amenity you could possibly want. Beautiful hardwood floors, cathedral ceilings & custom cabinetry throughout. Gourmet kitchen is a cookers dream with granite counter tops, high end appliances including a Wolf cook top & Sub Zero refrigerator. Home features 6 large bedrooms and 4 & 1/2 baths. There is an awesome covered front porch & patio overlooking the backyard. Other features include a whole house generator, central vac, 2 tank-less water heater and 2700 sq ft of unfinished basement, all situated on 1.17 acres in prestigious Loudon Heights.



104 Southcove Lane, South Charleston
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Wonderful home in South Charllestons South Cove subdivision. This home features breath taking views on 7 private beautiful acres. Home has 8200 sq ft on 3 floors with 5 bedrooms & 4 full & 2 half baths. Fabulous family room off kitchen with french doors to deck overlooking the 16x40 in-ground heated pool. Oversize first floor master with sitting room & fireplace. Gourmet kitchen with granite counter tops, sub-zero refrigerator & freezer & ample cabinet storage & pantry. Lower level is completely finished with access to pool and has a changing room & full bath. 4 car garage, central vac & security system. Priced below appraisal.



1578 Kanawha Condo Blvd E Apt 6C, Charleston
\$389,900

Absolutely stunning condo in prestigious Parkside on Kanawha Blvd- beautiful views of river and capital. This home has 2 bedrooms and 2 full baths. Portions of condo have been redesigned from the studs out adding additional living space. The new Darin Fisher kitchen with quartz counter tops, top of the line appliances, custom cabinetry is open to the family room and dining room. There is new cork flooring throughout. Entire home has been freshly painted with new light fixtures. There are custom blinds on all windows - Both baths have been redone with new cabinetry, toilets, and glass shower enclosures. Convenient to town, shopping and the capital.



1800 Roundhill Road, Charleston
Prices Vary

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2106 Kanawha Blvd East, Charleston
Prices Vary

Great complex in Charleston. One block from the Capital. Beautiful 1-2 bedroom 1-2 bath units. Some units have a private riverfront balcony or overlooking the pool. Units have hook-ups for your own 2 piece front load washer and dryer, some units have new kitchen appliances, and hot water tank. New hardwood and ceramic flooring. Newly renovated lobby and lounge area. Private parking on premises and a security access entry system. Great Investment or make it your private home.



RE/MAX



Brian Masemer, Borker

Wilma Ellis
(304) 545-2706

