

# Two women launch consumer movement

## Part 1

“What are you writing about this week?” D.C. asks, stopping by the door to my home office, where he can bet his front teeth that if it’s Saturday, I am banging out my next column to meet my Sunday deadline.

“Buying nothing,” I say, tapping keys.

“I like the sound of that,” he says.

“Me, too,” I say, for a change.

My husband and I recently replaced our home’s air conditioning system and eight outdated light fixtures. We are still recovering from our home-improvement hangover, for which the best cure is no spending for six months. So, when a reader sent me a link and told me to check out the Buy Nothing Project ([www.buynothingproject.org](http://www.buynothingproject.org)), I was primed.



AT HOME WITH  
**Marni Jameson**

A global web of neighborhood Facebook groups where members post stuff they are giving away or need, the Buy Nothing Project works like a giant gift exchange where nothing is expected in return. The aim is to knit together communities, reduce excess consumption and lighten the load on our planet.

Curious to learn more about how this non-buying spree was going, I

called one of the two founders. Liesl Clark lives on Bainbridge Island, a 30-minute ferry ride from Seattle.

When her kids were young, she told me, she often took them beachcombing. Her friend, Rebecca Rockefeller, and her kids went, too.

“We were constantly amazed by how much plastic washed up from the high tide,” she said. “Not just candy wrappers and straws, but car bumpers, garden tools and toys.”

They collected the debris, which the kids used to make art projects that got displayed in their commu-

nity center and local art museum. But the thought of how much trash lurked in our oceans haunted the women.

All that plastic led to a cathartic Aha! “We knew the mantra Reduce, Reuse, Recycle,” said Clark, also a documentary filmmaker for National Geographic and “Nova.” “And we decided to add a fourth R: Refuse.”

Their reasoning went like this: If we all bought less and shared more, we would save money, and reduce

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