

MARNI

FROM PAGE 2H

little; some had a lot. But all had arranged for their belongings to fall into the right hands, someday, to make the world better.

“What to Do With Everything You Own to Leave the Legacy You Want” (The Experiment Publishing) came out this week. The good ideas in it came from others. I am only the scribe, who, along the way, made these discoveries among others:

- **Everyone should have a plan.** Whether you want your belongings and the fruits of your life’s work to go to your family, the arts, your church, the environment, animals, research, museums, orphans or all of the above, it won’t unless you plan. That diamond necklace, the grandfather clock, the antique rug and the

vintage car are not just going to march themselves into the right hands.

- **Most adults don’t have a will, though most could benefit from one.** Only a third of those over age 18 and just half over age 55 have any will or estate planning document. So, if they get hit by a meteor, the state will likely decide who gets their assets. You can do better.

- **You don’t have to be rich to make a difference.** But you do have to be intentional. In the book, I share the story of a single schoolteacher in the Ozarks. She left her house, worth about \$65,000, to her community foundation to use to help kids go to school. Her gift became an endowment that generates two \$1,000 scholarships a year into perpetuity.

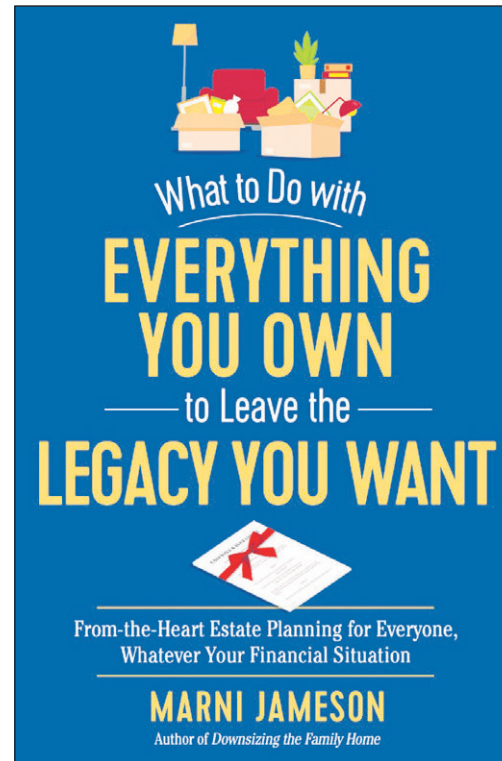
- **Have “The Talk.”** Parents and their kids need to have another

talk about the facts of life. Don’t wait until after you’re gone for the family to discover you left Suzy the farm and Sammy the salt shaker. Explaining now what you’re doing, including your plan to give your Steinway piano to your church, will head off many conflicts later.

- **Do the legwork.** If you have high-value items, like an antique French armoire or family silver that dates to the 1700s, have it professionally appraised, so family members know what they’re dealing with.

- **Liquidate while you’re alive.** Don’t get rid of any belongings you still use, love and enjoy. However, if you have any you are ready to part with, ask family members if they’re interested and gift them now. Sell the others and put the cash, which is always

SEE **LIQUIDATE**, 4H



What to Do with
EVERYTHING YOU OWN
to Leave the
LEGACY YOU WANT

From-the-Heart Estate Planning for Everyone,
Whatever Your Financial Situation

MARNI JAMESON
Author of *Downsizing the Family Home*

Marni Jameson's new book, “What to Do With Everything You Own to Leave the Legacy You Want” (The Experiment Publishing) is out now. She describes it as “the ultimate downsizing project.”

AUCTION

6PM AT THE PROPERTY
TUESDAY, JULY 13TH

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