

# Lessons learned from 2022



AT HOME WITH  
Marni Jameson

We covered a lot, you and I, in 2022.

We delved into the worlds of professional organizing, living solo, robots, crafting, and flatware. And that was just in the first six months.

Today, as I do every year about now, I'm circling back and pulling my favorite takeaways, one for each month, to recap our home-life journey. Here are highlights from the first half of the year:

In JANUARY, I got more organized. After interviewing organizing professionals and their clients for a series of columns, I kept thinking: I want an organizer to come to my house! But I was embarrassed to ask. After all, aren't I supposed to be an expert?

Then one organizer whispered, "Here's the dirty little secret: Professional organizers hire professional organizers." Of course! Doctors need doctors, right? Lawyers need lawyers. So why wouldn't I hire a professional organizer? So, I did.

Lesson: Even if you don't have too much stuff, you can still have it in the wrong place. A trained organizer can make your space work better, help you get rid of stuff you've secretly been wanting to get rid of but needed a push, and help you see what you've stopped seeing,



**A cut above** Stainless-steel flatware is one of those purchases you typically make only twice in your life, yet most of us put in our mouths 40 times a day, so choose well. For starters, look for a stamp on the back that reads 18/10. If that second number is lower, the maker skimmed on the nickel content, which keeps flatware looking good. Photo courtesy of Liberty Tabletop

In FEBRUARY, I spoke out on behalf of the 36 million singles out there who make up households of one. Many thanked me for sharing this message: "Don't feel sorry for us. We're happy living on our own."

Today, 28% of all U.S. households comprise just one person. "The rise of people who want to live alone is one of the most significant demographic trends of recent decades. The rest of society needs to catch up," said social scientist Bella DePaulo, who is single by choice and lives alone.

Lesson: Cancel the pity party. On behalf of the single at heart, DePaulo

lo busted the following myths: People who live alone must be lonely... wish they didn't... are somehow incomplete... are looking for that special someone. "We're fine," she said. "We're happy at home!"

In MARCH, we brought crafts out of the closet. Studies showed that the pandemic gave many closet artists and crafters license to pursue their inner Marthas. As a society, we went from wringing our hands to wringing tie-dye T-shirts and from knitting our eyebrows to knitting afghans. Crafting helped us pass time in isolation, took our minds off our worries, made our

homes look better, and, for the truly enterprising, brought in some dough.

Lesson: Whether you pursue your art full time or just dabble on the weekends, make room for it in your home. If your only creative workspace is the top of the washing machine, your art won't flourish. The ideal workspace should have a big, flat table; ample storage; good light; a vision board; everything

you need at hand; and, ideally, a door.

In APRIL, we added a new family member Rosie, the robot. To tackle the "fur-stration" around here, we got a Roomba. The robot vacuum roams the house like a motorized Frisbee on wheels. Twice a week, Rosie cleans up after our large, shedding dog, Luke (a Great

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MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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