



Capital News & Views

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www.DCorganizers.org

September 2009

Lessons Learned

Monday September 14, 2009 6:15pm – 9:00pm

To celebrate the 15th Anniversary of NAPO-WDC, a panel of some of the first chapter members will discuss how it began and how their organizing businesses have changed over the years. The panel includes Golden Circle members Sue Marie Bowling from *Prescription for Order*, Ellen Epstein, GC from *Concierge America, Inc.*, Susan Kousek, GC, CPO® from *Balanced Spaces, LLC* and Terry Watson, CPO-CD, PTAC, ACT, ADDCAT from *TimeWise*.

Ask the Expert Focus Group

Come early (6:15 pm) to register and network. If you are new to organizing, attend our informal "Ask the Expert" Focus Group from 6:30 to 6:55 pm, hosted by a member of NAPO's Golden Circle.

Bring your NAPO membership cards to the meeting for complimentary lamination!

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September 14 Chapter Meeting Information

Location

Rock Creek Mansion
5417 W. Cedar Lane
Bethesda, MD 20814
301-530-0258
www.kofc2797.org/index.html

Agenda

6:15 - 7:00 pm Registration, Networking and "Ask the Expert" Focus Group.

7:00 - 9:00 pm Business Meeting and Program

Guests are welcome to attend for a \$25 fee per meeting.

Chapter Mission:
To develop, lead and promote professional organizers and the organizing industry.

This Issue

Welcome Back!

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President's Message



Judy Parkins
Gently Organized
NAPO-WDC President
Judy@GentlyOrganized.com

I've learned many lessons in my years. Some were easy while others kept repeating until they were absorbed into my thick, albeit younger, skull. Lessons come much easier to me now that I've learned Einstein's definition of insanity – doing the same thing over and over while expecting different results!

One valuable lesson I learned along the way is that good planning creates great results. To facilitate planning for the upcoming chapter year, NAPO-WDC's [Board of Directors](#) met three times over the summer months for all-day planning and work sessions. The first of those sessions was facilitated by [Margarita Rozenfeld](#). Margarita helped the board set team agreements and goals for the upcoming year. The work we did with her was invaluable and I encourage all future boards to start your new planning year with a facilitator.

Out of those three days of work and fun, goals and action plans were developed by each board member. Peter Drucker once said that, "Plans are only good intentions unless they immediately degenerate into hard work." So, the hard work came next! Here are just a few of the results and great things happening for the chapter.

- No dues increase - we all are working to keep finances in check.
- We have two new meeting locations, convenient to the majority of our members.
- All educational programs and speakers for the year are scheduled.
- Our website is taking on a new, more user-friendly look.
- The membership drive is well underway and we have an updated, comprehensive membership packet.
- A great marketing plan will roll out this year to bring more exposure to the chapter.
- Our conference – The Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference for Professional Organizers (fondly known as MARCPO) - has an impressive program planned with an inspiring line-up of speakers.
- Our Corporate Partner program has streamlined benefits information.
- Look for a new meeting format. We'll open with our educational program followed by a 30 minute business meeting and a full 30 minutes for networking!
- In our effort to be more green, we will present the majority of our business meeting on PowerPoint and post the information in the Member's Only section of our website so you'll always have access.
- Member's strengths and interests are being collected to better match volunteer opportunities.

One of the collective tasks the board wants to accomplish this year is to establish

(Continued on page 3)

President's Message (Continued from page 2)

committees for each of their board programs and responsibilities. So many of you accepted positions already and have been involved in planning this year's activities. Thank you for your leadership. There's still room for YOU to be involved! Let me know and together we'll decide the best fit for your time and talents.

Last month, our board secretary, Sandra Merrigan, reluctantly announced her resignation. To fill the vacancy, I appointed Cris Sgrott-Wheedleton of *Organizing Maniacs*. Cris is the consummate volunteer and we welcome her to the board. True to her commitment to the board and this chapter, Sandee offered to stay until September to create a smooth transition. We will miss Sandee's outstanding leadership as secretary and wish her all the best.

Each of our board members worked diligently over the summer months to bring you a productive and successful chapter year. Please feel free to reach out and thank them for their service. I think they already know how much I appreciate their professionalism and camaraderie.

Involvement in the NAPO-WDC chapter is an opportunity to add to your life's volume of lessons learned. This will be a chapter year full of education, productivity and FUN. Be a part of it. We welcome you.



Be part of the area's largest educational seminar for professional organizers by attending The 11th Annual Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference for Professional Organizers (MARCPO). NAPO-WDC has worked hard to hold the cost of this event to the same as last year, while still offering quality educational and professional programs, focusing on ways you can Expand, Exceed and Excel!

MARCPO will be held on Saturday, October 17, 2009, from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm at the Double Tree Hotel and Executive Meeting Center in Bethesda, Maryland. The hotel is offering rooms at the discounted rate of \$99 (less than last year!) and Barnes and Noble will be selling books at 20% off list price at our conference bookstore (no need to bring your discount card).

The conference will include an opening and closing keynote speaker as well as three sets of concurrent sessions so you will be able to attend the educational offering of your choice.

We are excited to have Krista Green as the opening keynote speaker for this

event. Krista is an author, speaker, TV show host and entrepreneur. Her first company, *Organized for Life*, went on to become the first professional organizing franchise system worldwide.

Our closing keynote speaker is Julie Morgenstern, an organizing and time management expert, business productivity consultant and speaker. Julie's five books are timeless and jam packed with innovative strategies. She frequently shares her wisdom on television shows, including "The Today Show", "Good Morning America" and "The Oprah Winfrey Show".

The speakers for the concurrent sessions are: Meggin McIntosh, *The PhD of Productivity*, Julie Hall, *The Estate Lady*, Erin Rooney Doland, Unclutterer.com, Candita Clayton, *Your Life Organized*, Lauren Halagarda, *The Organization Connection* and Ellen Kaminsky, *The Elevator Speech Therapist*.

Don't miss this popular event. Discounted registration ends on Friday, September 18. Register now by visiting www.dccorganizers.org.

NAPO-WDC 2008-2009 Committee Chairs

Golden Circle

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Membership Drive in Full Swing

September

- 14 Chapter Meeting:
Lessons Learned
Rock Creek Mansion
Bethesda, MD
- 15 Book Club North



Jackie Kelley
Clearing House, LLC
NAPO-WDC Membership
Director
Jackie@clearinghouse.com

October

- 1-3 NSGCD Fall
Conference
Los Angeles
- 5 Chapter Meeting:
Tech Talk
Workshops
Kena Shriners
Fairfax, VA
- 21 Book Club South

The NAPO-WDC 2009-2010 membership drive is now on! We are excited to share our new program year with you and help your business grow with enhanced chapter benefits and opportunities to be involved and connected with fellow organizers. If you have already renewed, we thank you!

Renew your membership today for the 2009-2010 membership year which runs from October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010. Annual membership in NAPO-WDC remains a great value at \$165 and is a solid investment in your business. Renewals received after September 30 will incur a late fee of \$25.

[Click here to renew](#) or visit the "Members Only" section of NAPO-WDC website to find the renewal link. As a reminder, your NAPO national membership must

be active in order to be a member of NAPO-WDC. You will need your NAPO National ID number to log-in and renew. (Note: If you have trouble logging in to the "Member's Only" section of the website, double check your password and the use of preceding zeros in your ID number. Contact the NAPO-WDC [Technology Director](#) if you continue to have trouble logging in.)

Please review your member information for completeness and add any updates or changes to your database listing. This year we are also asking members to share information on related professional certifications and affiliations. This information will enhance our membership by recognizing individuals in our chapter with unique expertise and allow for better information sharing among members.

November

- 14 New Member
Brunch
Invitation Only
Vienna, VA
- 2 Chapter Meeting:
Ethics in Organizing
Rock Creek Mansion
Bethesda, MD
- 17 Book Club North

NAPO-WDC is pleased to offer its members a special rate for the professional portraiture services of B. Morales Photography during the November chapter meeting. Betty will be offering ten minute appointments from 6:30—8:00 pm on Monday, November 2, 2009.

Betty will provide a corporate headshot package for \$40 which includes a choice of profile, 2/3 face from both sides, full face or full body shot.

You will receive an online gallery posting for image preview, light professional retouching on selected images, an electronic version of photos in high resolution

(ready for print) and low resolution (ready for the Web), and an unlimited reprint license.

Please contact Betty Morales at 703-913-0091 or betty@bmoralesphotography.com to schedule your appointment.

Need An Updated Headshot?



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NAPO-WDC Membership Benefits

(Continued from page 4)

The benefits of membership in NAPO-WDC include opportunities to network with other professionals, educational programs on organizing topics, and a variety of professional resources and services aimed at business growth and development.

In addition to our rich meeting program schedule for the 2009-2010 membership year, NAPO-WDC now hosts two book clubs, offers participation in three NAPO Neighborhood groups, and will host a New Member Brunch in November. We are also planning GO Month and chapter marketing activities during winter and spring months, and supporting other NAPO programs such as NAPO in the Schools, Quantum Leap® and Golden Circle activities.

Specific benefits to NAPO-WDC membership include:

Education

NAPO-WDC offers educational opportunities to help you become more efficient, knowledgeable, and competitive:

- Free admission to all chapter monthly educational meetings.
- NAPO-WDC conference providing educational sessions on a wide variety of topics (Oct 2009). Members receive a registration discount.
- Ask the Expert Q&A sessions at meetings for guests and members offering professional support.
- Increased professional credibility.
- Enhanced membership identification for Golden Circle members.
- Mentor program for new and aspiring organizers.

Professional Resources

NAPO-WDC provides resources and services geared toward your professional growth and development:

- Tape/CD recordings from previous NAPO, NAPO-WDC and NSGCD (*new for 2009-2010!*) conferences available to borrow from the chapter lending library.

- NAPO Neighborhood group meetings held monthly (Rt. 66/Rt. 7/Rockville Pike).
- Book club meetings held monthly and Book Share program via Yahoo group.
- Media exposure through NAPO-WDC chapter promotions, print, and electronic media.
- Online organizer search system to generate business leads and connections with new clients.
- Unique "Members Only" section for additional resources.
- Participation in the NAPO-WDC Yahoo Discussion Group.
- Public relations and cooperative marketing efforts.

Networking

NAPO-WDC recognizes the importance of being able to interact with and learn from the leaders in the organizing industry:

- Meet and utilize our Corporate Partners to learn about the local organizing products and services they offer and how they can benefit your clients.
- Take advantage of volunteer opportunities that provide experience, exposure, and the opportunity to affect the future of the organizing industry.
- Enhanced membership identification for Golden Circle members, Certified Professional Organizers®, and NAPO-WDC Award Winners.
- Your business web site linked to the chapter web site (www.dccorganizers.org).
- Small group interaction with fellow organizers at monthly book club discussion and NAPO neighborhood groups.
- Leadership opportunities through committee positions, board leadership, and project and event coordination.

February

1 Chapter Meeting: Getting Measurable Results With the Residential Client
Kena Shriners Fairfax, VA

17 Book Club South

March

1 Chapter Meeting: Safety on the Job
Rock Creek Man-Bethesda, MD

16 Book Club North

April

5 Chapter Meeting: What's New?
Kena Shriners Fairfax, VA

21 Book Club South

21-24 NAPO National Conference
Columbus, OH

May

3 Chapter Meeting: Annual Awards Dinner
Location: TBD

18 Book Club North

June

7 Chapter Meeting: NAPO 2010
Kena Shriners Fairfax, VA

16 Book Club South

July

20 Book Club North

August

18 Book Club South

No chapter meetings in July or August.

Newsletter Information

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Newsletter Topic Schedule

Sept Welcome Back
Oct Tech Talk
Nov Ethics in Organizing
Dec Successful Marketing
Jan Unique Business Models
Feb Residential Highlights
Mar Safety on the Job
Apr What's New?
May Organizing Students
Jun NAPO 2010

(Continued on page 7)

NAPO Neighborhoods



Janet Schiesl
Basic Organization
NAPO-WDC Director of Programs and Professional Development
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As a member of one of NAPO's largest chapters, it can be hard to get to know fellow organizers in your geographic area. To encourage such networking, members have begun creating NAPO Neighborhoods to get to know each other better, learn from one another and support each other in their individual missions.

There are currently three NAPO-WDC Neighborhoods: Rockville Pike group, Route 66 group and Route 7 group. Each neighborhood group is self-governed with a coordinator who reports to the chapter board. Currently, each neighborhood group meets once a month.

The Rockville Pike group meets on the fourth Monday of each month at La Madeleine on Rockville Pike. The coordinator for the group is Alisa Levy. Contact her at alisa@embraceyourspace.net or 301-651-1697.

The Route 7 group meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Borders in Dulles Town Center. The coordinator for the group is Cris Sgrott-Wheedleton at cris@organizingmaniacs.com or 703-969-8407.

The Route 66 group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the home of Sandra Forbes in Vienna. The coordinator for the group is Janet Schiesl who can be reached at janet@basicorganization.com or 571-265-1303.

For more information on an individual neighborhood group, check the chapter newsletter or contact the appropriate coordinator.

Website Report

Nealey Levi
On Track
NAPO-WDC Director of Communication & Technology
liveontrack@gmail.com



Month/Year	Unique Visitors	Number of Visits	Pages	Hits
May 2009	699	1170 1.67 visits/visitor	3,787 3.23 pages/visit	33,341 28.5 hits/visit
June 2009	402	621 1.54 visits/visitor	1,539 2.47 pages/visit	14,805 23.8 hits/visit

TECH TIP: A blog...in short.

1. A blog is basically someone's online journal.
2. The entries can be, and usually are, commentary of past personal and/or business experiences.
3. A blog is good for things like sharing your thoughts, establishing a presence on the web and promoting your business.
4. Over "346 million people worldwide read blogs." (Source: <http://libbyvarcoe.wordpress.com/2009/02/23/blogging-grows-by-68/>)

Book Clubs

Book Club North

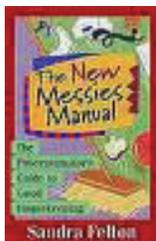
Coordinator: Lynn Meltzer
Clutter and Paperworks

When: Tuesday, September 15, 7pm

Where: Home of Lynn Meltzer
10131 Ashburton Lane
Bethesda, MD 20817

Book: *The New Messies Manual*
by Sandra Felton

If you're tired of fighting an avalanche every time you open a closet or cabinet door... if you never answer the phone because you can't find it... if there's a "Cleanie" inside you who's striving to break free, *The New Messies Manual* can help you make chronic messiness a thing of the past!



Book Club South

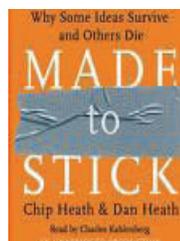
Coordinator: Judy Parkins
Gently Organized

When: Wednesday, October 21, 7pm

Where: Gently Organized Office
Alexandria, VA

Book: *Made to Stick: Why Some Ideas Survive and Others Die*
by Chip Heath and Dan Heath

Unabashedly inspired by Malcolm Gladwell's bestselling *The Tipping Point*, the brothers Heath—Chip a professor at Stanford's business school, Dan a teacher and textbook publisher—offer an entertaining, practical guide to effective communication.



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The deadline for each newsletter submission is one week after each chapter meeting.

The NAPO-WDC Chapter is committed to providing information through the newsletter. Contributions from members are encouraged. All articles are subject to editing. Please include your full name, business name, email address and photo for possible publication.

If you would like to advertise in this newsletter, please contact Lauri Mennel, Lauri@BluebonnetPO.com. NAPO-WDC makes no endorsement of products or services advertised.

Advertising sizes and rates:

Small (3 1/2 x 2") \$30

Medium (3 1/2 x 4") \$50

Large (7 x 4") \$100

25% discount for members

25% discount for repeat ads (three or more consecutive months)

All ads must be pre-paid. Rates subject to change at anytime.

Board Meetings

The next board meeting is scheduled immediately preceding the September chapter meeting. Board meetings are open to all chapter members. To ensure enough space at the location of an upcoming board meeting, non-board members who wish to attend should contact Chapter President Judy Parkins one week prior to the meeting.

Take part in this great opportunity to get to know other members and to share your knowledge. The NAPO-WDC Book Clubs meet every month (alternating locations) and choose their own books.

Book Club North usually meets on the third Tuesday of every other month (September, November, January, March, May and July) and Book Club South usually meets on the third Wednesday of every other month (October, December, February, April, June and August). All chapter members are welcome to attend. The clubs read organizing books or books related to business. We discuss the aspects of each book and how the book relates to our work as organizers and small business owners.

Please check the chapter newsletter for future dates for both the North and South Book Club. RSVP to Lynn Meltzer at arnielynn@verizon.net or 301-530-3551 for directions to the Book Club North meetings. RSVP to Judy Parkins at judy@gentlyorganized.com or 703-548-1000 for directions to the Book Club South meetings.

NAPO-WDC Enhanced Website Listings

Sign-Up for an Enhanced Listing on the *Find an Organizer* section of NAPO-WDC's website to make your business **stand out**. Enhanced listings include your photo, special color background to display your information and headings in a bold, red font.

A current Enhanced Listing user says: *"The enhanced listing has made a huge difference to my business. The clients who decide to contact me are a better match for my business because of the additional information provided in the listing. For me, the enhanced listing is a bargain compared to more costly marketing and advertising campaigns."*

Enhanced listings are \$50. Sign up in the membership renewal process by selecting the "Upgrade my listing for \$50" box in the "Upgrade to an Enhanced Listing" section.

Golden Circle Report

Meredith Gordon, *Gordon Organizing*, was a guest on the August 10 segment of "Let's Talk Live" program on News Channel 8. She presented the timely "Easy Tricks to Get Your Kids Organized for School."

Deb Lee, CPO®, *D. Allison Lee, LLC*, was interviewed in May by Howard Bernstein on WUSA Channel 9. They chatted about organizing gadgets and tools for any room or area.

On June 3, Judy Parkins, *Gently Organized*, taught a webinar for The Enterprising Moms Group on "Organizing Paper and Managing Time."

Alisa Levy of *Embrace Your Space* and Judy Tiger of *Just That Simple* presented a paper management class in two parts on May 13 and May 20. This Quantum Leap® presentation was given at the Silver Spring Drop-In Center which provides resources and socialization for adults who have experienced mental health concerns.

Deb Lee, CPO®, *D. Allison Lee, LLC*, was profiled and wrote a guest blog post for Evernote titled, "Using Evernote to Solve Everyday Organizational Challenges."



Helen Montfort
Making Space for Life
NAPO-WDC Golden Circle Liaison
hsmontfort@mac.com

Many thanks to Jessica Williams who has been our Golden Circle Liaison for the past two years. She has done an outstanding job of creating a cohesive group of Golden Circle members by arranging quarterly meetings and always keeping members informed with the happenings of the National Golden Circle. Jessica also worked to ensure a host at each "Ask the Expert" table at chapter meetings. Jessica, the Golden Circle members are very appreciative of your time and effort!

Golden Circle Gatherings

The next Golden Circle gathering will take place at Lynn Meltzer's home in Maryland at 4:00pm on Sunday, November 8. Further details will be announced via email closer to the date.

Golden Circle Listserv

If you are part of the NAPO national chat, then you know that this membership benefit provides a wealth of information on a daily basis. But are you aware that there is also a Golden Circle Member listserv?

This is another venue for more seasoned professional organizers from around the country to network, to ask each other for

advice, to get a referral for a vendor or product and to share knowledge about a variety of topics with other Golden Circle members. Find more information about this listserv at:

<http://lists.napo.net/listmanager/listinfo/golden-circle>

Ask the Expert Table

At the beginning of each chapter meeting, an "Ask the Expert" table is hosted by Golden Circle members. This gives new folks an opportunity to ask questions of more seasoned organizers and for GC members to give back to the organizing community. Volunteers are still needed for upcoming dates. Please let Helen know at which meeting you'd like to be the "expert!"



Golden Circle

Golden Circle originated in 1990 as a way to recognize our veteran members with a special designation for their dedication to the organizing profession and to NAPO. There are more than 600 members throughout the country and 48 in our area.

If you've been in business as an organizer for at least five years and a NAPO member for at least one year, you may qualify for GC membership. To apply, go to http://napo.net/members/gc/golden_circle_application.pdf for an application.

There are no membership fees or dues and new members receive a GC certificate and a gold membership pin. The GC logo can be used on your marketing collateral and you are designated in the national and local NAPO membership directories, and websites, as a Golden Circle member.

GC members attend many outstanding events at the NAPO national conferences including luncheons, special lectures and roundtable discussion groups as well as attend local get togethers.

Book Review

“Rightsizing Your Life” by Ciji Ware



Janice Rasmussen
Executive Order
janice.execorder@yahoo.com

In May, Book Club North met at Lynn Meltzer's home. While discussing Ciji Ware's book "Rightsizing Your Life", my fellow readers and I felt that the book had considerable impact on us.

"Rightsizing Your Life" is focused on baby-boomers, mid-lifers and the 50 and over demographic. Yet, it's meant for anyone who needs and/or wants to reevaluate their present living situation and consider the next steps in their lives.

There are pivotal and critical events in our lives which require us to re-evaluate our surroundings and the way we live. Whether it's planned or unplanned, conscious or unconscious, there are times when we need to consider the next phase of life and plan the journey to what lies ahead. Rightsizing is not an easy road to navigate, but one worthy to steer. This book is a primer on how to develop your blueprint for the next step in your life.

Ciji Ware explains through anecdotes and relevant experiences the process of simplifying your surroundings so you can focus on what matters. Ware says, "In contrast to 'downsizing', rightsizing is a process, not an event. Its outcome has more to do with the 'right' of the equation than 'size'."

Whichever path you choose, aging in place, purchasing a second home, downsizing or upsizing, the choices are varied and complex. The author guides us through the process that helps us to determine how to get to that next place.

Ware provides a roadmap of questions encompassing the emotional, financial and physical aspects of life. Your answers help you contemplate your mid-life energy regarding what matters most to you. She states, "I don't merely want less or sim-

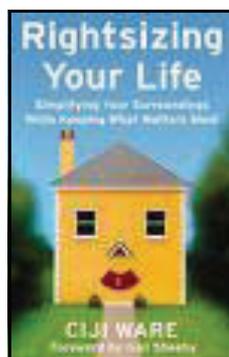
pler...I want better". Rightsizing is a conscious, practical and psychological evolution in the way we live our lives.

Undoubtedly, finding your core passion for how you want to live is a difficult challenge. The author provides a series of quizzes to help you define your next phase. She offers time tables to guide you but the group agreed these were not realistic.

Ware also suggests ways to sort through your possessions and how to select those relevant for your rightsizing. She outlines how to decide on your next living space, how to identify your favorite things and when you should call in the professionals.

Her Seven Simple Steps in Part 2 is a valuable guide and resource, and could be an excellent source of information for our clients. Yet, beware. This is a serious and complex discussion on how to reinvent our lives and improve on the way we live them today.

This book takes us on a journey to discover who we really are, what we love and how we want to live in the next phase of our lives. We highly recommend this book.



NAPO-WDC Chapter Membership Dues

Regular Chapter membership requires membership in NAPO National (*see below*).

Regular chapter member (local)	\$165
Regular chapter member (non-local)	\$120
New member one-time processing fee	\$ 25
Corporate Partner Standard	\$325
Corporate Partner Premium	\$500

Membership year is from October 1 through September 30.

For NAPO-WDC Chapter membership information and application, visit www.DCorganizers.org or contact the Membership Director, Jackie Kelley at membership@dcorganizers.org. For Corporate Partner questions, contact Julie Gray at CorpPartners@dcorganizers.org.

NAPO National Member Dues

Provisional member annual dues	\$180
Active member annual dues	\$200
Corporate Associate member annual dues	\$550
One-time processing fee	\$ 20

Send NAPO National dues to:

National Association of
Professional Organizers
15000 Commerce Parkway
Suite C

Mount Laurel, NJ 08054
Tel: 856-380-6828
Fax: 856-439-0525

Visit the website to download a membership application or join directly at:

<http://www.napo.net/joinnapo/regular.html>

Welcome New Member!

Ricki E. Bates
703-536-2955
rickiebates@gmail.com

There are currently 123 members and 12 Corporate Partners in NAPO-WDC. There were 51 members and 10 guests at our June meeting.

Membership Directory

Detailed information about members can be found on our chapter website, www.DCorganizers.org, in the Members Only section.

Changes and Corrections

Once you join or renew your chapter membership, you can update your own information at any time. Go to www.DCorganizers.org. From the "About Us" menu, select "Members Only Pages." Enter your NAPO National membership number and your unique password. Click "My Account" and make changes.

Connect With NAPO-WDC Online!



Deborah Lee, CPO®
D. Allison Lee LLC
NAPO-WDC Director of Marketing
deb@dallisonlee.com

Have you heard? NAPO-WDC has become a social butterfly! Well, actually, we are now more involved with social media and can be found on Twitter and Facebook. Come join us, won't you?

Tweet with us! Some of you are already connecting with each other and are networking on Twitter. Recently, we created a Twitter account for our regional conference, otherwise known as [MARCPO](#). We will be using this account to post updates and news about our conference, so come follow us! Be sure to [visit our page](#) often and to tweet any information other organizers may be interested in.



Friend us! We also have a Facebook group that was created by Past President

Scott Roewer (thanks, Scott!). This group is open to NAPO-WDC chapter members only. It's another way for us to connect with each other and share organizing news. There are even pictures posted from our last NAPO conference in Orlando, so check it out!

[Click here to join NAPO-WDC on Facebook](#)

There are a lot of great things happening with our chapter and we absolutely welcome those who would like to get more involved. Several opportunities are available, so if you'd like information on things you can do to help and/or if you have questions about finding us on Twitter or Facebook, please [contact me](#). Thank you for continuing to support our chapter!

Quantum Leap® Update

Alisa Levy
Embrace Your Space
NAPO-WDC Quantum Leap Liaison
alisa@embraceyourspace.net

NAPO believes that making important shifts in one's life is difficult to impossible without basic organizing skills. Quantum Leap® is a community outreach program created to spread NAPO's unique knowledge of organizing to individuals who can benefit from it the most.

For those in life transitions—individuals living in shelters or public housing, the homeless, the mentally ill, teenage mothers and many others—these skills are critical, but are often unaffordable. Quantum Leap® provides free organizational skills training to people in life transitions who critically need professional guidance.

Through local nonprofit agencies, our classes teach better management of time, paper and personal finances.

Professional organizers volunteer their time to provide training either as individuals or teams.

In the past year, a variety of classes were given at the Patrick Henry Homeless Shelter in Falls Church, VA, the Katherine Handley Shelter in Centreville, VA and the Silver Spring Drop-In Center in Silver Spring, MD.

I'm honored to work with the following talented and compassionate Quantum Leap® trainers: Janet Schiesl of *Basic Organization*, Terri Fischer of *Consider It Done*, Jackie Kelley of *Clearing House LLC* and Judy Tiger of *Just That Simple*.

For more information on how you can help contact Alisa Levy, Quantum Leap® Liaison at alisa@embraceyourspace.net or visit the NAPO website at <http://www.napo.net/who/involvement/quantum.aspx>.

Book Review

“The Year of Magical Thinking” by Joan Didion



Cris Sgrott-Wheedleton
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On June 17, Book Club South met at Judy Parkins’ office to discuss “The Year of Magical Thinking” by Joan Didion. This book is a change from our regular readings of organizing books, as we decided to focus on the emotional side of life transitions.

Have you ever wondered if you could become chronically disorganized? Have you lost someone close to you and had a difficult time adjusting back into everyday life? Bereaved clients have asked us “How did I get here?” In this intensely personal book, Joan Didion takes the reader through the universal experience of loss. It captures her first year of grieving and how she dealt with it emotionally. There are glimpses of her issues with getting and staying organized, but that is not the focus of the book. Life transitions are events common to all of us. The book reminds us that these events have a significant impact in everyone’s lives.

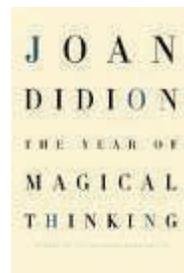
The first four lines of the book summarize the entire journey. “Life changes fast. Life changes in an instant. You sit down to dinner and life as you know it ends. The question is self-pity.”

Reviews of the book were mixed. Terri Fisher related to some of the experiences

described by the author and compared them to “being in a snow globe. It looks to other people like you’re fine, but there’s an unreality. You see life going on around you, but much of the time you can’t feel it. It is as though you’re looking through glass. Then, on occasion, it hits you.” I learned that there is a difference between mourning and grieving, and that time is relative.

As the book’s cover states, “This powerful book is Didion’s attempt to make sense of the ‘weeks, and then months, that cut through any fixed idea I ever had about death, illness, marriage and children.”

We would recommend the book to anyone who would like to understand a client going through these difficult life transitions.



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Attention Organizing Assistants!

Are you interested in letting other chapter members know you want to work as an organizing assistant?

Chapter members interested in assisting other organizers will have the opportunity to advertise in a list to be published in the monthly Constant Contact. This publication comes out approximately 10 days before chapter meetings.

The list will consist of your name, phone number, email address and photo. You will be able to purchase space on the list for \$75 for a five month ad. Sign up now!

Contact [Lauri Mennel](#) for questions or instructions on payment.

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for NAPO-WDC members



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The advertisement is set against a background of architectural floor plans. The text is arranged in a clear hierarchy, with the main title in a large, serif font, followed by a tagline in italics, and then the event details in a smaller, sans-serif font.