



February 2007

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As I look at people like Art Linkletter I realize that there are choices in life that we can make that will be a benefit to us in our "elder years".

I suppose that is why I want to encourage people to take the time to get their lives organized. Chapter 4 of my book *My Life in a Box...a Life Organizer* can help you accomplish that. THEN you can work on improving other areas of your life so that you can enjoy yourself and your family.

My Friend Sandra – Happy Valentine's Day

I just returned from Philadelphia. It was 12 degrees one morning as I walked to my meeting. I live in Central California and although it has been a brutally cold Winter, 12 degrees was quite an experience. I was prepared for it though. I had my layers of clothing, my insulated snow shoes, coat, gloves and scarf. The only thing I forgot was the fact that earring in ears begin to immediately freeze at below freezing weather and without a hat or ear muffs, there is a burning sensation that begins immediately. I enjoyed walking the half mile to my meeting and my ears survived, but I now have a new "survival" list for my next visit.

At the meeting I had the joy of seeing friends and interviewing one of them. Her name is Sandra Angelo. She specializes in teaching people "who can't draw a straight line". She is amazing. But more amazing is the story about how she survived a fire that totally devastated her home 3 years ago.

As she explains it, she was enjoying an evening at home when she noticed that the sky was turning a "beautiful orange color". As she went outside to take a picture she heard a loud siren and a voice yelling

About The Author



I celebrated my 56th Birthday last month. I use to think "50" was old. Not now! My daughter and son are both married and I live in Central California.

While growing up, I had the joy of getting to know my four grand-parents and even learned how to make quilts with my great-grandmother. As a point of trivia, my Grandpa Larry instilled in me the love of downhill skiing and my Grandma Reath taught me how to garden. My hobbies are many but include landscape designing, photography, and flower arranging.

People often ask me how I got involved in my business and why I wrote *The Next 48 Hours and My Life in a Box*.

After losing 12 of my family members and a couple of close

"EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY, YOUR LIFE IS IN DANGER".

Sandra grabbed a few photos and drove away from her home following a long line of cars evacuating the area. A huge wall of fire enveloped her neighborhood and within days 2400 homes were burned to the ground.

When she returned several days later, 17 years of work and over 900 pieces of artwork were in ashes. She had to totally rebuild her life, applying for a new Social Security card, passport, and many other vital documents that she could have taken with her only if she would have "prepared and not procrastinated".

As a survivor, today Sandra Angelo has a thriving business and continues to teach people to draw. The community survived the fire but many things were lost because people did not think there would ever be such a catastrophic fire in their neighborhood.

So, why am I bringing this up on Valentine's Day? Today symbolizes love. If you are married, have kids, or if you are single and live alone, you need to realize that the GREATEST gift you can give yourself AND your family is the gift of being prepared. It's not as much fun as giving someone a big box of chocolates or a bouquet of roses, but think about it... If you experience a fire, car accident, or terminal illness, wouldn't it be a real GIFT for your family if you have all of your personal, legal and financial documents located in ONE SPOT... ONE fireproof box... something easily accessible, to get to quickly?

To start, let me encourage you to take time this week and locate all of your insurance papers. Sit down with a favorite beverage (mine is hot cocoa right now) and take a 3" X 5" card and write down exactly what your insurance covers. If it is your car insurance, create a quick reference card with your agent's 800#, name and what vehicle is covered. Once you have written down the information, staple it to the front of the policy. Do this for your medical insurance, homeowners or renters insurance and by all means, your Long-Term Health Insurance. This way, if there is an emergency someone will know where your policies are located and know exactly what to do, who to call, and what is covered. Also, go to my website www.mylifeinbox.com and purchase a workbook for your family and friends.

You know what I love to say...I'm not a pessimist...I just want people to get their lives organized so they can enjoy life!

Visit my friend Sandra Angelo at:

<http://www.discoverartwithsandra.com/>

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friends, I realized that I did not have the tools I needed to face the financial and legal issues that occurred with each loss. That's why I began collecting vital information and writing.

I have become an advocate for organization! I want to encourage people to get organized and then enjoy life to its fullest. Also, by being prepared, in case of an emergency, you can quickly leave your home in three minutes with everything you will need to rebuild your life!

During this process of "getting organized" I hope you understand that you don't have to get every thing accomplished in one day. Take a little time each day. Turn on some music. Invite a friend or family member to help and you'll get it done in no time! THEN you can have the peace of mind that what ever you face in the future, you will be ready.

Please tell your family and friends about our website,
www.mylifeinbox.com

Also remember that our workbooks are available at wholesale prices for large groups, and workshop information is available upon request.

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