



NEWSLETTER
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Welcome to Feng Shui for Real Life, a monthly e-newsletter that provides Feng Shui tips and other information that can help you bring simple Feng Shui changes into your life. Feng Shui for Real Life is available by request. To subscribe or unsubscribe, visit: <http://www.FengShuiForRealLife.com>.



Carol M. Olmstead, FSII

What's New on My Website:

I have added new links to the [Links Page](#) to my website, where you can view useful sites. I plan to update this page frequently, so check it often.

To view new Links, go to my website:

<http://www.fengshuiforrealife.com/linkspage.htm>.

Feng Shui Tip: Harmonious Holiday Meals

Why is this Passover going to be different from all other Passovers? Why will this Easter be different from all other Easters? Because this year you are going to follow Feng Shui seating guidelines to help ensure a happy, harmonious Seder meal and Easter dinner. This tip applies equally to both holidays, especially when it comes to seating at the holiday table!

- Passover and Easter meals are about joining together, so avoid seating a husband directly across from a wife, which is known as confrontational seating. It is preferable to seat a guest of honor across from one spouse and seat the other spouse in the middle, complementary position.
- A round table is the best to encourage the easy flow of conversation, but it is usually too small for the extended family and friends joining you at your holiday meal. Instead, use an oval table, or soften the edges of your rectangular table with a white tablecloth.
- Before the Seder, Jews search through the house for "chametz" or crumbs and traces of bread and foods that cannot be eaten during the holiday. The Feng Shui parallel is to clean your home before any holiday gathering, searching for dust, removing old dried flowers, replacing air filters, washing windows, etc.
- Choose a color scheme that includes blue for harmony and new beginnings, white for clarity, and gold for power. Avoid wearing red (the FIRE element) at Passover or Easter dinner. Fire could lead to more arguments, especially mixed with the heat of all that cooking and the warmer weather.

Clutter Clinic: Clear the Deck for Spring

Does the mild weather give you the urge to start your spring cleaning? This year, try *clearing* out old energy instead of just cleaning. Don't forget to clear out those easy-to-forget places—like your deck and your fridge:

- Sweep your deck, patio, porch, or portal to get rid of dead leaves and dust. Uncover the chairs and barbeque grill and clear the way to start using the space again.
- Your front door is where all the positive energy enters your home. Clean, re-paint, or re-stain your front door, use some WD-40 on the hinges, and clean the glass windows.
- Windows are the "eyes" of your home, so clean your windows and you can see the world with clarity; clean your office windows or you will be looking at your career through a dirty lens.
- Clear out behind furniture that hasn't moved in years; remember to clean behind, above, and under the refrigerator.
- Did you just get over an end-of-winter cold or flu? Negative chi accumulates after an illness, so clean your home thoroughly and leave the windows open for an hour.
- Avoid keeping your cleaning product, mops, and brooms in the open in the kitchen or dining room, and avoid storing them in the pantry with food, which would symbolize cleaning out your income, health, nutrition and prosperity.

Success Story: Getting Help From Your Family

Many of my clients have garages that are stuffed to the point of exploding. Here is the story of how one client enlisted the help of her son to clear out the garage:

I decided to have a yard sale in April as incentive to clear out my garage, and enlisted the help of my son and his girlfriend. With her helping he was really motivated. We moved all of his stuff into the pile one side of the garage (it was a big pile). Because the two of them wanted make money for a trip we are all taking together, I thought of an added incentive for him to get rid of things. I asked them to separate out all the items that would sell for small amounts, and said I would give them the profits when those items sold. My own incentive to get rid of things quickly is that as soon as the garage is empty, I can move my filing cabinets there and make room in my office. It is amazing how much time and effort is going into getting rid of our stuff. I am thinking twice about buying anything new in the future. I'll let you know how the yard sale goes!

Feng Shui Q & A:

Q: When choosing a plant to put in the wealth/prosperity area, is the shape of the leaves important and is there any particular plant that works best?

A: Round leaves are considered good for a wealth area, because the shape represents coins and therefore, wealth. However, any healthy plant will work fine, or you could use a silk plant if there is not enough light in the space for a natural plant.

Q: Our driveway has a pronounced slope to it. I read that a sloped driveway can cause our wealth to flow out. What would you suggest to stop this problem?

A: You can stop the flow of wealth out of the driveway by install a light or reflectors at the top of the driveway, and placing red planters or other decorative object at the bottom.

Consultations and Workshops

Do you want to schedule a Feng Shui consultation or workshop in your home city?

Home and Office Consultations: On a regular basis, I offer consultations for homes and offices in the **Northeast** (Maryland, Northern Virginia, Washington, DC) and the **Southwest** (Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Los Alamos, Phoenix, Scottsdale). Appointments do fill up fast, especially on the weekends. If your city is not on my travel list this month, please e-mail me (carol@FengShuiForRealLife.com) for details about setting up a session or consultation in your location.

Here is my current planned travel for April and early May:

DC, Maryland, Virginia: April 12-24

Annapolis/Baltimore/Columbia: April 25-29

Santa Fe/Albuquerque: May 1-8

I welcome your referrals in these and other locations.

Workshops and Seminars: My Feng Shui workshops are customized to meet the needs of individuals, organizations, and groups. Here are some of the most popular topics I have presented:

Introduction to Feng Shui

Bedroom Feng Shui

Feng Shui Clutter Clinic

Feng Shui for Children's Rooms

Home Office Feng Shui

Feng Shui Goes To Work

Look Twice, Buy Once for Home Buyers

Sell It Fast with Feng Shui

Feng Shui, Love, and Relationships

Feng Shui in the Garden

*****Attention Meeting Planners*****

If you're booking speakers for Spring or Summer conferences or events, keep me in mind, sometimes even if you have a last-minute cancellation. I deliver high-content, high-interactive programs that are fun and informative for your participants. Call 800-652-9038

Partner Profile: Preparing Fido For Baby's Arrival

Animals can be unpredictable in the presence of a newborn baby. And the last thing new parents need to cope with is nervous, jealous and/or aggressive behavior from their pets. That's what led Shawn Hrcir and Lisa Ruggles to create **Preparing**

Fido™, a comprehensive collection of baby sounds on CD with an instructional booklet of training recommendations and literature from The Humane Society of the United States. These tools help expecting parents lovingly prepare their pet(s) for the arrival of a baby. The initial inspiration for **Preparing Fido™** came during Lisa's pregnancy, when she had to break the news of her daughter's upcoming birth to her "first baby," her Doberman *Bailey*. (I have met Bailey, and I know that was no small task!) As baby and dog lovers, Shawn and Lisa asked themselves how mothers-to-be could prepare their beloved pets psychologically for the "big event," which led to the creation of **Preparing Fido™**. For more information, check out www.PreparingFido.com or call 1-800-953-5211.

Beyond Feng Shui: Home Improvements vs. Staging

Are pricey home improvements worth the cost when you are trying to sell your home? Not necessarily, according to *Remodeling and Realtor Magazine*. The magazine says you will probably only recoup 91% of the cost of a kitchen remodel, 85% of a new roof, 90% of new windows. A bath renovation will probably lose money. The solution according to the magazine? Hire a professional—like a Feng Shui consultant—to "stage" your house, which will give it an inexpensive makeover and invite the right buyer into your home.

New Feature!

MarketPlace: Services to Help You Grow Your Business.

Since so many of my clients are entrepreneurs, especially home-based businesses, I am launching a **MarketPlace** section in the newsletter. This section will highlight business-to-business services that can help you grow your own entrepreneurial ventures. I welcome contributions from readers of business services that have been useful to you. *When you access these companies via the web address listed, you will be eligible for any special discounted services.*

Broadcast Interview Source

Broadcast Interview Source is a great way to bring the media to your website and promote your business, product, or services. I issue monthly press releases about my Feng Shui consulting service through this service, and they receive hundreds of "hits" each month. You can save \$100 on your membership if you use this link:

http://www.expertclick.com/referral/Carol_M_Olmstead.

The Publicity Hound, Joan Stewart

If you want to learn how to generate thousands of dollars in free publicity, check out the website for Joan Stewart, also known as The Publicity Hound. Joan offers a free monthly newsletter of PR tips and advice, and she sells low-cost tools to teach you how to develop relationships with the media.

Click here to check out her website and subscribe to her free e-newsletter:

<http://www.marketerschoice.com/app/?af=374705>.

My Client-Centered Approach to Feng Shui: *When I recommend cures for a home or office, I consider each client's goals. I try not to recommend anything that you will find unattractive or unacceptable. Rather, I suggest practical, appropriate,*

and workable cures that are based on solid Feng Shui principles and fit in with the way you live. I try to recommend several practical solutions that are appealing to you and fit your decor and your budget.

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Don't miss an issue of the Feng Shui For Real Life e-newsletter. To ensure receipt, please add this e-mail address (carol@FengShuiForRealLife.com) to your Address Book or Approved Sender's list. Thank you!