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# Getting Organized Now!

Inspiring you to showcase the best in life.

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Tweet



Forward



## G-R-A-T-E-F-U-L

As we embark on another holiday season, please take a few moments to relax and consider the wonderful things in your life that make it so precious. Here's a revisit of my G-R-A-T-E-F-U-L list.

G - Growing up in a small town

R - Relationships, personal and professional

A - Achieving success with my business

T - Travel opportunities

E - Enthusiastic team members to mentor and to coach

F - 4-H membership

U - Unending learning opportunities

L - Loves of my life....Pat and Cari

I hope you'll create your own list and note the warmth you'll feel as you recall these glorious things. Wishing you a joyous and blessed holiday season!

## National Christmas Card Day | December 9



There is no better tradition during the holidays than to send Christmas cards. The history of sending holiday cards began back in 1843 as a means to encourage people to use the new British postal system.

Around 1875, a German printer started mass-producing cards. But it wasn't until the early 20th century, when the Hall brothers created Hallmark, that this tradition really took off.

Today you can include family photos, multi-page letters, digital production, store bought, or use your DIY skills to create with construction paper, glue, and glitter. No matter how they are created, Christmas cards are sure to make the recipients smile, and the sender.

December 9 is National Christmas Card Day. Are you ready to send? Need some help?

Call or email us today. Let's get started: 612-616-1215; [beth@gettingorganizednow.com](mailto:beth@gettingorganizednow.com)

## FOREVER® Design & Print | Photo Cards



Step one: choose from a great selection of professionally designed templates.

Step two: Upload your favorite photo, or add them from your FOREVER® library. Even add a caption.

Step three: Save and send to the FOREVER® Print Shop.

Step four: Address, sign, stamp, and mail your cards (after they arrive).

Looking for a few more gifts? Don't overlook Design & Print's photo gifts (mugs, tabletop panels, ornaments, coaster sets, mouse pads, magnets), wall décor (canvas prints, acrylic prints, metal panels), and calendars.

No special software needed!

Call or email us today. Let's get started: 612-616-1215; [beth@gettingorganizednow.com](mailto:beth@gettingorganizednow.com)



## How Aimee Olson Found Her True Purpose in Life

–Marjorie Simon

Have you ever wondered if you are really living the life you were meant to live? Ever have gnawing doubts about the direction your life has taken? Meet Aimee Olson who, at age 35, faced those doubts. Despite a successful 14-year career in construction and a house filled with the trappings of success, Aimee had the courage to ask herself if she was truly happy.

Aimee decided she was not and over a four-year period she downsized—or rightsized, as she says—to live in a 24' RV with her partner, Ben, and Golden Retriever, Selby. The result: She's never been happier. If you saw last year's movie, *Nomadland*, the RV lifestyle is gaining popularity—with retirees. But for someone young, amidst a successful career? A true rarity.



### If You Don't Ask, You'll Never Know

“What does our path look like,” Aimee asked herself as friends married and had children. She knew that wasn't for her. But she had studied minimalism and thought that might be her calling. So, she and Ben scrutinized their lifestyle.

“What about mental clutter? What expectations do we maintain that aren't necessarily the best? Do we have to live like others? Do we have to have that life, car, house?” asks Aimee.

The tipping point was realizing an income-driven life was insatiable. “No matter how much—it was never enough,” says Aimee. Once they challenged these suppositions they asked, “Is this notion enhancing my life, or detracting from it? Does this align with my personal values?”

### Minimalizing, One Step at a Time

At age 37 Aimee sold her 1400 sq. ft. home and she and Ben moved into a 900 sq. ft. apartment. According to Aimee, “When we downsized to 900, the first 2 weeks were painful. Then we realized we were fine. We asked, ‘How much more can we do without?’ We realized we didn't miss the space. We liked how creative we had become, doing without.” Next step? Downsize to 500 sq. ft.

### Life Done Simply

During the process Aimee realized she wanted to teach others how to organize and, possibly, minimize their lives. She started *Life Done Simply* in 2016: “I call myself a holistic and productivity coach,” Aimee says. “No matter what you choose, just be sure it's intentional and reflects your

values.” She teaches clients to do more with less, to be more content.

For Aimee, it’s all about a life philosophy: How do you want to live your life—REALLY?? Does your lifestyle match your inner-conscience’s voice? If so, you’re on the right track, regardless of your path. “Things are fleeting. They come and go. Once we understood that, we got rid of the stuff and savored meeting people and the travels.” Aimee says.



### “Hit the Road, Jack”

In 2018 they bought a 24’ RV, canceled their lease and hit the road. They each left a bin of sentimental things and a few larger things with their respective families. Some things, like Aimee’s grandpa’s candy jar, are with them.

“As we travel the country, we look at possibilities. We never say, ‘down the road when we buy a house.’ We always live moment-to-moment. We will never again live in a traditional American home,” says Aimee.

### Doing Without and Making It...

Some things, like tools, they miss. But their fellow RV’ers are a great help. “We help others, and they help us. We have found tremendous community on the road. RV’ers are so willing to help out,” says Aimee.

### Putting Their Lives in Drive

Since living on the road, the couple have visited 22 states—every state west of the Mississippi. This year they’re hitting the Southeast. “We especially like the western states and the Southwest. There are similarities in people anywhere. We are not as divided as we think. People want to be understood and appreciated. We haven’t felt the same divisiveness. People work together and relax together,” Aimee says.

They’ve eradicated the stereotypes of geography. “We’re open to all people, and we dropped our preconceived notions because it’s never what we assumed it would be,” Aimee says.

As they planned, they agreed to give it one year. “After that year I said, ‘I don’t think we even need to discuss this. Ben said, ‘It feels like we just got started. Absolutely.’” Now celebrating their third RV year, they are happy and settled. If something surfaces, their well-grounded values will guide them.

### What Aimee Tells Clients

When Aimee works with her clients, they begin with values—not clutter. First, they identify their core values, then determine what they REALLY want from life. Aimee says once they’ve decided those things, the rest is easy. Many contact Aimee when there’s been a transition—death or divorce. They need a neutral third person to help them move forward.

Aimee clarifies that re-framing a mindset is not decluttering, and it’s not scarcity. “This is not about deprivation. It’s about determining what you need to be content.”

### Space-Free Photo Saving—and Sharing

Through all this rightsizing, what did Aimee do about all her photos and memorabilia? FOREVER®. This guaranteed-secure, cloud-based storage system has allowed Aimee to keep all her precious memories not just close, but shareable, too. “If I want to share memories, FOREVER® gives me access to photos anytime, anywhere. I go to my phone’s FOREVER® App and I pull up great photos right there. It’s not just about scanning them onto my computer. It’s about how can I share them

with others. Once we started scanning [photos]—we were hooked. We created something shareable.” So, Aimee’s precious memories are with them all the time.

### If Only...

Now at age 42, Aimee recalls two frequently asked question from RV nomads: “How old are you, and do you work?” After Aimee responds, their response is almost always, “Good for you. If we had to do it over...we would have done this so much sooner.”

To visit Aimee’s web site: <https://www.lifedonesimply.com/>

To learn more about FOREVER®: <https://www.forever.com/ambassador/bethgibsonlilja>

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From our blog...

## Gift Giving in Challenging Times

It’s that time of the year. Making gift lists. But with the manufacturing bottlenecks, worker shortages and shipping delays, holiday gift-giving presents problems never-before seen. Or is this really an opportunity whose time has come? I think it’s the latter.

[Read more](#)

Get caught up with all our blogs!



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We invite you to join our private client Facebook Group:

[Photo Solutions Clients.](#)

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## 2021 Page & Project Challenge Club!

\$75 | January–December 2021

Membership Guidelines:

1. Receive an exclusive gift as a Club Member.
2. Set a goal to complete 221 individual pages or projects.
3. Count all projects one-for-one.
4. Showcase your project(s) at the annual brunch.
5. Receive a \$10 discount on one workshop each month.
6. Receive a special rate for our National Scrapbook Day event.

- 7. Pay early-bird rate for Twin Cities Digital Day workshops.
- 8. Receive (2) 30-minute individual virtual coaching sessions.

Includes monthly follow-up email. Additional benefits may be added.

**Register Now!**



Set of two Note Cards Designed by Beth | one to keep and one to give as a gift

### DRAWING

*Drawing will be held Wednesday, Dec 8.*

## UP NEXT!

12 | 03: No-Frills Project

12 | 04: Regular Project

BGL & Associates, LLC Studio | [Details](#)

### REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

04 | 7-10, 2022: Camp Cropuhapi Spring Retreat 2022

Emma's Country Retreat, Hinckley, MN | [Details](#)

Save \$50 by registering by Dec 31, 2021 | Use the code "springretreat"

We are working on the 2022 event calendar. We look forward to you joining us!





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