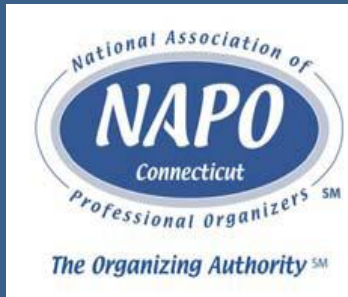


# Connecticut Connections

July / August 2010

"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass on a summer day listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is hardly a waste of time."

-John Lubbock



## Next Chapter Meeting

**When:** September 17  
9:00 a.m. – noon

**Title:** How to Find a Stud

**Facilitator:** Jen Burke and  
Betsy Krobot

## Agenda:

Continental breakfast  
Networking  
Situation of the Month  
Presentation

**Where:** Holiday Inn, North  
Haven, Exit 12 off Route 91

**RSVP:** with an e-mail to  
RSVP@NAPOct.com



## President's Message

Sandra Wheeler  
forpeaceofmind@sbcglobal.net

The NAPO-CT Board of Directors for 2010-11 began their term on May 15<sup>th</sup>. We held our Strategic Planning meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

At that meeting, your five Board members listed all Chapter activities that consume our time, energy and money. Then we discussed the value of those activities in relation to our

Chapter's Vision and Mission Statements.

Our priorities are focused around supporting and educating Chapter members and promoting the Professional Organizing profession. Several key goals are:

- focus on informative monthly programming and speakers
- increase chapter membership and member involvement
- improve member renewal process to an annual shared date
- streamline records retention in conjunction with NAPO National guidelines
- plan a celebration meeting in January for GO Month
- rewrite our Bylaws to incorporate recent changes at the National level

...just to list a few. We have a good deal of work ahead of us, but I am happy to have Jen, Judith, Deb and Cara on the team.

I wish for you a tremendous summer. May you have as many clients as you wish for on your schedule. May your work be satisfying and your clients ever grateful and appreciative of your talents. May you have time to enjoy special loved ones at barbecues and concerts at the beach or the park. May you relish in the chance to just sit on a quiet summer evening and listen to a cricket nearby while you marvel at the stars above.

Be safe and happy! See you in September.

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## 'Open Spaces' at the May Meeting

Written by Sandra Wheeler, For Peace of Mind  
and Lauren Guiditta, Organize for Today

At the May Chapter meeting, Cara Brook facilitated the Open Spaces discussion. Attendees shared industry-related topics they were interested in learning more about. There were six categories mentioned and the lively and informative discussion that followed allowed us to cover four topics.

Thank you to everyone that attended this meeting. It was fun and wicked informative. Here are the highlights:

- **Green disposal** – How to help a client purge their items quickly and where can those items go other than the landfill. Suggestions were made for local businesses that accept donations and that entire list follows. If you have more ideas to share, please send them to Sandra Wheeler. We will keep this list updated and share with our members.
- **Ebb and flow of our business**
  - Market even when you are busy
  - Use the quiet time to pull together your office, contact management system
  - Account for slow times in your financial planning
  - Provide a newsletter to your clients
  - Talk with other organizers and share your concerns, ideas
  - Donate your time to a non-profit
  - Call clients with new product suggestions
  - Schedule speaking engagements
  - Hold a SWAP event
  - Be patient – it takes about five years to get established
  - Define your niche – small business / kitchens & baths / teens / etc. and make your marketing materials reflect this clearly
- **Charging for client errands**
  - Charge your hourly rate or at least a portion of that – don't give away your time, gas, energy
- **From networking to warm prospects**
  - How can I help you? Make connections between your social network individuals
  - Build relationships, don't talk just business – have tea, talk about family, take a walk
- **Certification vs. self-taught P.O.**
- **Wholesale / tax-exempt license for resale**



Thank you to Faith Manierre for suggesting this type of meeting. Thank you to Cara Brook for facilitating the discussion so that Faith could take the day and prepare for her son's college graduation.

Feedback regarding this meeting was overwhelmingly positive (5 out of 5 in all categories on the feedback forms). It was recommended that we utilize more meeting time to share the wealth of information, knowledge and experiences that our members bring to the table.



## Donation Suggestions

Category	Business Name	Contact	Contact Info	Email / Website
<b>Books</b>	Local Library	Drop off used books, videos, DVDs, CDs, and tapes		
	Salvation Army	Schedule pick up of your used clothing and household items.	800-SA-TRUCK (800.728.7825)	<a href="http://www.satruck.org/">http://www.satruck.org/</a>
	Disabled Vietnam Veterans	Schedule pick up of used clothing, household items, small furniture, accessories, etc.	(800) 775-VETS (8387)  <b>Fairfield, New Haven, Middlesex counties only</b>	<a href="http://www.clothingdonations.org/maps/Connecticut.htm">http://www.clothingdonations.org/maps/Connecticut.htm</a>
	Lupus Foundation	Schedule pick up of your used clothing and household items.	888-44-LUPUS (888-445-8787)	<a href="http://www.lupuspickup.org">www.lupuspickup.org</a>
<b>Building Materials and Tools</b>	Rebuilding Together	National nonprofit that accepts hand tools, yard tools, step ladders, drop cloths, tape, brushes, rags, etc.	Offices in Hartford, New Britain, Manchester, Litchfield County, Stamford/Greenwich and Springfield.	<a href="http://www.rebuildingtogether.org">www.rebuildingtogether.org</a>
	Habitat ReStore	Donated goods sold to the public and the funds are put toward Habitat home construction.	Danbury, Salem, Stratford	<a href="http://www.habitat.org/cd/env/restore_detail.aspx?place=64">http://www.habitat.org/cd/env/restore_detail.aspx?place=64</a>
<b>Clothing and Household Items</b>	Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters	Schedule pick up of your used clothing and household items.	1-888-413-2227	<a href="http://www.bbbs.org">www.bbbs.org</a>  <a href="#">Ways to Donate Link</a>
	Savers	Drop off used clothing, media, furniture and household items to support Big Brothers Big Sisters.	432 Buckland Hills Drive Manchester  3137 Berlin Tpk Newington	<a href="http://www.savers.com/Donating.aspx">http://www.savers.com/Donating.aspx</a>
	My Sister's Place	Drop off women's, kids' and baby clothing. Storage is limited so call first.	Hartford  860.895.6629	
	The Clothes Horse Thrift Store	Run by Junior League of Hartford	175 Park Rd, West Hartford  860.233.1411	<a href="http://www.jlhartford.org">www.jlhartford.org</a>
	South Park Inn	Accepts unopened laundry detergent, first aid supplies, linens, office supplies and new personal-hygiene supplies.	75 Main St, Hartford  860.724.0071	

Category	Business Name	Contact	Contact Info	Email / Website
<b>Clothing and Household Items (cont'd)</b>	Goodwill	Drop off used clothing and household items.	National # (800) 741-0186	<a href="http://www.goodwill.org">www.goodwill.org</a>  <a href="#">Locator Link</a>
	Habitat ReStore	Donated household goods (no clothing) sold to the public and funds go toward Habitat home construction.	Danbury, Salem, Stratford	<a href="http://www.habitat.org/cd/env/restore_detail.aspx?place=64">http://www.habitat.org/cd/env/restore_detail.aspx?place=64</a>
<b>Green Recycling</b>	Earth 911	Guide of how to and where dispose of items properly.		<a href="http://www.earth911.com">www.earth911.com</a>
<b>Electronics</b>	Best Buy	Drop off unwanted small electronics.	National # 1-888-BEST BUY	<a href="#">Best Buy Recycle</a>
	Green Monster E-cycling	Drop off or schedule pick up of unwanted electronics to be recycled for FREE	150 Brook Street West Hartford, CT  860-231-1426	<a href="http://greenmonsterecycling.com/">http://greenmonsterecycling.com/</a>
	Gazelle.com	Pay for unwanted electronics mailed to them in postage-paid box. If there's no value they will recycle.		<a href="http://www.Gazelle.com">www.Gazelle.com</a>
<b>Everything</b>	FreeCycle	Local neighborhood swapping.		<a href="http://www.freecycle.org">www.freecycle.org</a>
<b>Hazardous Household Waste</b>	CT DEP	Generally defined as toxic, flammable, reactive or corrosive; includes oil-based paints, thinners, pool chemicals, gasoline, pesticides, & mercury thermometers.	CT DEP website for schedule in your area	<a href="http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2718&amp;q=325448&amp;depNav_GLID=1646">http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2718&amp;q=325448&amp;depNav_GLID=1646</a>
<b>Medical Equipment</b>	JoniAndFriends.org	Accepts folding aluminum walkers, aluminum crutches, folding wheelchairs (not electric) and metal canes which are sent to the needy in 103 impoverished countries.	Contact: Joy Eusebio, Woodbury  203.263.0270	
	The Bible Church of Waterbury	Accepting metal crutches and canes to send to Haiti	240 Dwight St, Waterbury  203.753.7942	
	World-Wide Lighthouse Missions	Accepts medical supplies and equipment	Manchester  860.645.4141	
	Suffield Emergency Aid Association	Accepts cane, walkers, crutches, shower chairs, commodes and transport chairs that are clean and in great working condition. Medical equipment is loaned to Suffield residents.	450 South St, Suffield  860.668.1986	<a href="http://www.suffieldea.org/">http://www.suffieldea.org/</a>

Category	Business Name	Contact	Contact Info	Email / Website
<b>Paper</b>	Shred Station	Shredding services.	(877)ShredXP	<a href="http://www.shredstation.com">www.shredstation.com</a>
	Shred It	Shredding services. Call for a listing of free events in your area.	29 Diana Court, Cheshire (800) 69-Shred	<a href="http://www.shreditct.com">www.shreditct.com</a>
<b>Tires</b>	CT DEP or the tire's manufacturer	Tires	DEP Recycling Program (860) 424-3365	
<b>Wedding Dresses</b>	Brides Against Breast Cancer	Donate used wedding gowns to women with breast cancer		<a href="http://www.bridesagainstbreastcancer.org/">www.bridesagainstbreastcancer.org/</a>

## 'Feng Shui' at the June Meeting

Written by Sandra Wheeler, For Peace of Mind

At the June meeting, attendees enjoyed a terrific presentation from Gregg Nodelman of Dancing Dragon. Gregg shared the basic concepts of Feng Shui, which is the study of how space affects individuals, and the reverse, how individuals affect their space. Gregg shared what a mentor had said to him many years ago, "Find what you love doing and give it all." He encouraged participants to really think about what energizes you about your work and what drains you? He suggested that you meet clients at their energy level. Moving too swiftly could lead to confusion and irritation for a client, and moving too slowly could feel frustrating and draining to a client.

Feng Shui is about chi, energy. It involves attracting and containing energy in our life and space. Energy wants to move through the entire house or office. If it hits clutter, it can lose energy or even pick up negative energy and spread it further into the space. Gregg shared that in our profession it is not what we add, but what we remove that may help the client the most.

A special thanks to Gregg for spending his morning with us. The presentation was very enlightening. Gregg is a Certified Feng Shui Consultant, a Certified Space Clearing Practitioner, and a Certified Clutter Clearing Practitioner. Learn more about him and his services at [www.ddfengshui.com](http://www.ddfengshui.com).

## Chapter News

### Records Retention

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, your Board members are planning a day together to ensure that Chapter documents are in order and organized for records retention purposes.



If you have documents that need to be included in our archives, please contact a Board Member (see last page for names and numbers) by August 15<sup>th</sup>. We will arrange to meet you if there are paper documents that need to be transferred.

### Sign in Please

To ensure that the Chapter has accurate records for meeting attendance, please sign in at the registration table, each time you arrive at a meeting. For Certified Professional Organizers, to earn credits for attending presentations, the Chapter utilizes the registration sign-in sheets as proof of attendance.

## Calendar of Events

### September

**Title:** How to Find a Stud  
**Speaker:** Betsy Krobot of Betsy K Home Choreography and Jen Burke of JKB Organizing  
**Date:** September 7, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to noon



Have you ever had a client who needed help beyond traditional organizing? A wire shelf in the closet or hooks in the laundry room would put the finishing touch on those spaces. The client has pictures propped against the wall and hasn't yet taken the time to put them up. You recommend a shelving unit, the client buys it and there it sits in a box, 'some assembly required'. How about the client who could really benefit from an under-the-sink roll-out basket, overhead storage hooks or bike holders in a garage? Do you have the tools and the know how to finish the project? Or would you feel intimidated?

Don't! Organizers Betsy Krobot and Jen Burke will give us all the "tools" we need to feel confident in offering these services to our clients. Why bring in a general contractor or handyman when we can do the work ourselves? Clients are always impressed when we offer these extra services and finishing touches! We will cover everything from the top 10 items for every Organizer's tool kit, to using drills and drillbits, electric screwdrivers, various types of hammers, nails, levels and even, how to find a stud!

### October

**Annual Member Renewals:** Since we are moving to a common annual renewal date of October 1, for all members, there will be time set aside at this meeting to quickly and efficiently assist you with your Chapter membership renewal. Plan to attend this meeting and take care of your renewal in person.

**Title:** Photo Organizing – Tapping into this New Niche  
**Speaker:** Cathi Nelson of Personal Photo Organizing by Cathi  
**Date:** October 15, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to noon

Almost overnight film photography was replaced with digital cameras and people gained the ability to snap hundreds of photos in an instant. The result is a consumer who is overwhelmed with the sheer number of photos now clogging their computers. In addition, the photographs that were once printed are often still in boxes, bins and bags. The average person feels guilty and anxious that they have not done anything with their photos. Cathi will share how a Professional Organizer can be of great assistance in this critically needed area.

### November

**Title:** Open Spaces  
**Speaker:** TBD  
**Date:** November 19, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to noon

## Meeting Schedule for 2010-2011

Sept 17	Chapter meeting Board meeting	9:00 am – Noon 12:30 – 2:30 pm
Oct 15	Chapter meeting	9:00 am – Noon
Nov 19	Chapter meeting Board meeting	9:00 am – Noon 12:30 – 2:30 pm
Jan 21	Chapter meeting and luncheon Board - Strategic Plan update	9:00 am – 1:00 pm 1:15 – 2:30 pm
Feb 18	Chapter meeting Board meeting	9:00 am – Noon 12:30 – 2:30 pm
Mar 18	Chapter meeting New Board Welcome meeting	9:00 am – Noon 12:30 – 2:30 pm
Apr 15	Chapter meeting Board transition	9:00 am – Noon 12:30 – 2:30 pm
May 20	Chapter meeting Board meeting	9:00 am – Noon 12:30 – 2:30 pm
June 17	Chapter meeting	9:00 am – Noon

### Mailing Address

NAPO-CT  
Attn: -----  
994 North Colony Road  
PMB 127  
Wallingford, CT 06492

### Web Address

[www.NAPOCT.com](http://www.NAPOCT.com)

### NAPO Dues Notice

*According to National NAPO policy, if your National dues lapse for 30 days, your membership date with NAPO will be reset to the date you rejoined. NAPO-CT will adhere to the same policy. If National membership expires, chapter membership automatically expires. It is your responsibility to keep both national and chapter membership current. Notify NAPO-CT Membership Director if you have any changes in your contact information.*

## 2010-2011 NAPO-CT Board of Directors

### President

Sandra Wheeler (860) 608-0451  
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[forpeaceofmind@sbcglobal.net](mailto:forpeaceofmind@sbcglobal.net)

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### Treasurer

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### Past President

Cara Brook (203) 348-4767  
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### Director Communications / Technology

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### Director of Marketing

Deb Gabinelle (860) 561-1613  
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### Director of Membership

Vacant

### Director of Professional Development / Programs

Vacant