

# Baltimore Jewish Times

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## JT Eye for a B-more Guy (& Girl)

by Patricia A. Granata  
and Laurie Legum

### **Organize and Eliminate**

Katherine Trezise, owner  
Chrissy Leonard, associate

### **Absolutely Organized –**

Specialists in organizing homes and offices  
410-329-3300

Kathy and Chrissy specialize in organizing everything from closets to paperwork in both homes and businesses. Upon meeting Josh and Julie, they gave them one simple mandate. "Identify one area of your home that needs improvement."

That was all this team needed to make a few changes and a huge impact.

### **Julie's Problem/Dilemma**

Julie has a lot of clothing left over from high school and college that she doesn't wear anymore. She also has a lot of mementos from events throughout her life (elementary school, middle school, high school, college, and six months in England) that clutter up a lot of her closet space. Although Julie has a large closet with plenty of space, it is hard for Julie to see what she has because it is so cluttered.

### **Solution/Resolution**

Since Julie is moving in 2 months, Kathy and Chrissy will make over her closet without doing anything permanent to it. Everything that they put in her closet she will be able to take with her when she moves.

Fabric covered boxes are a perfectly neat and stylish way for Julie to organize all of her memories. Each box is labeled for easy identification. Because Julie has so many photographs, a photo box is a great way to keep all of these together and in some sort of order.

For Julie's clothes, what she didn't want or wear was immediately separated. The gals from Absolutely Organized added an Easy Hang extra closet rod to organize Julie's jeans. Shelf dividers on the top shelf organize her handbag collection, sweaters, and T-shirts.

For Julie's shoes, two 10 Pocket Hanging shoe organizers are a great way to keep the shoes off the floor and clear up floor space.

Now Julie can see all of her clothing with great ease and can get to some of her outfits that she's neglected because she couldn't see them.

### **Products/Style Tips**

- Cloth covered boxes from Target
- Extra closet rod from Bed Bath and Beyond
- Shelf Dividers from Linens-n-Things
- Hanging shoe organizers from Target

### **Josh's Problem/Dilemma**

Josh lives in a high-rise apartment with limited closet space. He's done his best at arranging and stacking things to keep them out of the way. His closet doesn't have a door, so he's improvised with a tapestry to cover the mess within. But no matter how organized Josh tries to be, he still has clothes in piles that are hard to reach. Also, with limited space his clothes on hangers tend to be pushed close together and, because he can't see all of his clothing options before him, he can't get a good look at all his clothing choices.

### **Solution/Resolution**

Immediately Kathy and Chrissy tore down the tapestry and emptied out the entire contents of the closet. What appeared at first to be stacks of clothing were easily weeded out when Josh made a pile of "castaways" for Goodwill and The Associated.

Instead of wire hangers that we all get from the dry cleaner, Kathy and Chrissy rehung all of Josh's clothes on sturdy wooden hangers. This not only gave the closet a neat, uniform look, it helped clothes hang straighter and avoid those "pokethrough bulges" that wire hangers cause on garments.

For Josh's floor space, Kathy and Chrissy built two tall stackable shelves. Here, Josh could store his workout clothes. Because he reaches for these every day, they are now well within sight and always available.

Instead of the nails that Josh had used to hang his tapestry, our Absolutely Organized gals purchased a wooden dowel and clips to hang the tapestry the same way one would if it were a curtain. Now Josh can simply push the tapestry open or closed when he wants to get into his newly organized closet.

### **Products/Style Tips**

- All of the stuff Kathy and Chrissy used was from Ikea.
- Wooden dowel, stackable shelves, clips for the tapestry and wooden hangers are available at Ikea at great prices.
- If you haven't worn something in one year, get rid of it – no use keeping clothes around that will never get worn. Purging unwanted garments is a great tax write-off and makes for plenty of closet space.
- Absolutely Organized had Josh stash his wire hangers in a bag to be returned to the dry cleaners. Recycling is an important part of organization.