



856.905.3202 (preferred) or
610.688.8595
www.HeartWorkOrg.com
Darla@HeartWorkOrg.com



Back to School: August 2013

Dear Darla,

Congrats to Lisa B. for winning the [Tote Buddy](#) giveaway. Many of you told me what a clever idea this was, and I agree! Please click for a demo and a link to order your very own.

This month, everyone gets the prize! My friends at [Artkive](#) are offering a \$10 credit to any new user that creates an account. Artkive is an app, so once you download it onto your smartphone, go to the Account section, in the Group Code box type in "Darla", and \$10 will go into your account. How great is that? If getting your kid's artwork organized and off your kitchen counter is a goal of yours, then this is something you'll want to check out.

Looking forward to a little time and motivation to get things organized once school is in session? Holly Amato is hosting a free (no strings attached) organizing telesummit throughout the month of September. I was honored to contribute one of the classes, and I'm in great company! Look for an email next week for the link to listen to a motivating organizing class nearly every day throughout the month of September. It's always great to learn something new.

If you need hands-on help, remember that our [Clutter Support Group](#) is starting again on October 1. This is absolutely the most affordable organizing services you'll receive all year! Please click and sign up before time gets away from you. See you in the fall!

Fondly,

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Events & Info

Darla DeMorrow

Summer Fun Hit List

Many of you follow me for organizing and design advice, and I really appreciate every single one of you who read this. But before summer comes to a screaming halt, I wanted to share a few of my favorite family summer spots with you.

I do try to stay true to my company themes. After all, we only organize so we can enjoy what's important in life. Hard work is admirable, but nobody on their death bed ever said they wished they had worked more. The other theme I try to promote here is financial organizing. Thriftiness, if you will. A summer vacation can easily mean thousands of hard-earned dollars spent...but it doesn't have to. So here goes...

1. Avalon, NJ sounds expensive, but we were thrilled to be invited again to the [Golden Inn](#) for a blogger getaway hosted by [Real Mom Media](#). We love this beautiful property with an ideally located pool, tiki bar, and blue beach chair and umbrella service. They are open year round, and there are groupon and "girlfriend getaway" deals to be had, so keep your eyes open and score some time at one of the best beaches in the world for sand castles.

We were treated to the amazing talents of [Matt "The Sandman" Long](#), who taught us how to make professional level sand castles (perfect for princesses!). My kids adore watching his "Can You Dig It?" video, which is wonderful in the dead of winter! If you are a beach-going family, or wish you were, [The Can You Dig It Sand Tool Super Deluxe Sand Sculpting Kit](#) with video is a great Christmas present!

October 1, starts 4-part **Clutter Control class**, in Wayne, PA, 7-8:30 pm.

[Register here.](#) If you want to make progress, have your own personal cheerleader, learn new skills, be encouraged, and do it all for cheap, then THIS is the class to take! Real results in a small group setting. YOU choose your project, and we'll cheer you on.



(Photo Credit to Stephanie Glover, agrandelife.net)

2. [Sesame Place](#) in Langhorne, PA probably isn't what you think it is. We dragged my parents there this weekend, and we almost had to drag them out, they were having so much fun. Even though we've been season ticket holders for three years to this combo wet/dry park, there were still attractions we had not yet enjoyed. We attended Elmo's Rock Show, enjoyed some quality time with the larger-than-life characters at the "Monster Party" Dine With Me buffet lunch, even played the arcade, which was a great deal for only \$20. Yes, we won all of this fun stuff! (The organizer in me is a little worried about the huge pink chipmunk that my oldest is now surgically attached to.)



We finally enjoyed some pool time, with the Tiny Tidal wave for our little ones, and then a relaxing, lazy float down Big Bird's Rambling River. This is where we got to experience another SP first for us...taking advantage of the lifeguard/EMT /security team response when my dad took an ill-planned exit off his raft and ended up with a dislocated shoulder. Unfortunately, this is something that he's done before, so it's no reflection whatsoever on Sesame Place, except to say that they could not have responded more quickly or more nicely to our family's needs. It turns out that being directly across the street from the hospital is another selling point for this theme park! Dad is fine, thanks for asking.



Be sure to plan for the night parade and then the [fireworks on Sunday 9/1](#). They also have the Spooktacular and the Furry Christmas events coming up later in the year, so there's still time to enjoy the park.

3. [Elmwood Park Zoo](#) is also one of our favorites, and the annual membership there pays for itself many times over. This time, I finally, finally got to feed the giraffes. I got to pet their little noses. The EPZ giraffes are only here for the summer, so get there soon before they head south. Did you know that their tongues are black/blue so they don't get sunburned??? It's wonderful to see all of the changes at the zoo in just the last three years. They have some amazing plans for upgrades, so if you haven't been there lately, check it out.



I hope you enjoyed just a few of our favorite things about the greater Philadelphia area. If you need more ideas, my very smart friend Jennifer runs a site and app called [PhillyFun4Kids](#), where you can get even more ideas for little people and big people alike.

Go enjoy the last rays of summer before you dive into your next redesign!

Disclaimer: We do get various goodies at some of these events, but we pay for our tickets and are happy to share all of our own ideas with you.

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