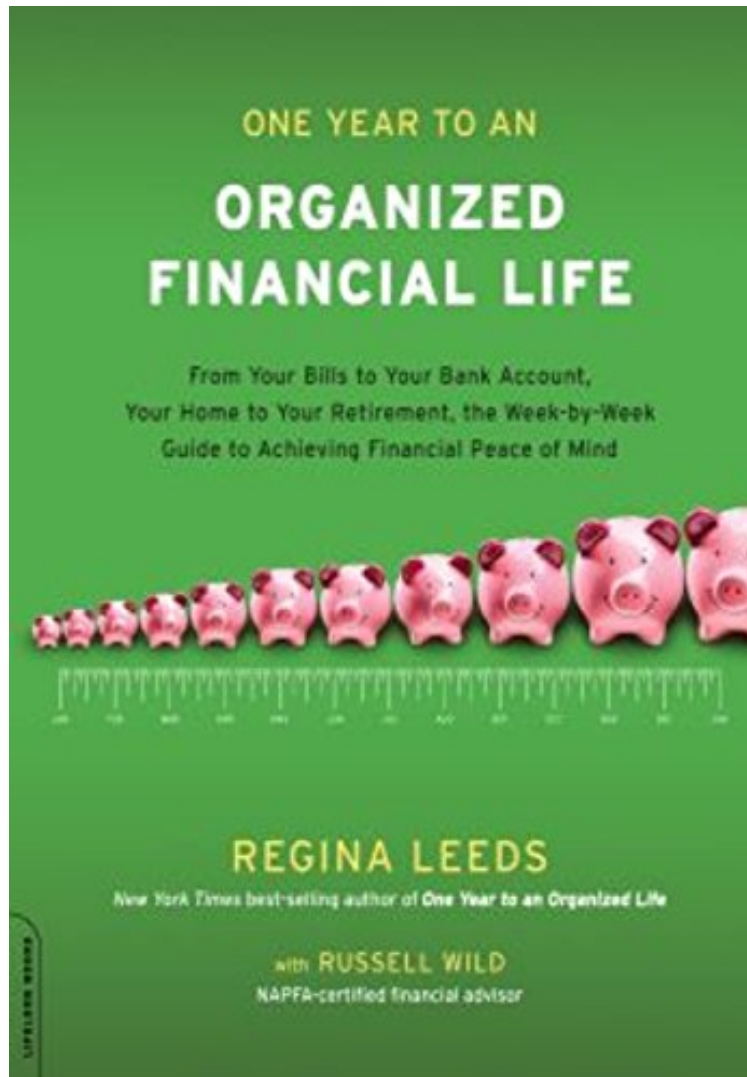


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One Year to an Organized Financial Life: From Your Bills to Your Bank Account, Your Home to Your Retirement, the Week-by-Week Guide to Achiev

Regina Leeds

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6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. I liked the first 4 chapters - it tell you to ...By Calvin. CI had high

expectations of this book. Written by 'Zen Organizer', I have expected a different type of financial guide book, the one that is different in its concepts messages. I liked the first 4 chapters - it tell you to carry a smaller wallet, carry cash, and put all the bills in order, the same side - because you need to be organized in order to fill powerful able. I liked this fresh approach the author brings - she sure is the 'zen organizer'. Then after chapter 4, the books becomes somewhat of 'little bit of this' 'little bit of that'. It greatly talks about investing and retirement account, such as 401k. I'm a CPA and can understand verify all the information is correct, but if the readers have wanted to get a deeper insight into investing, there are plenty other choices available that goes in depth. the book shuffles from investments to teaching kids the value of money, donating your goods to charity, and creating a holiday shopping budget. I don't think people buy this book thinking to learn about the investments or getting tax deductions - while it's great to touch on the concept, this books goes somewhat unnecessarily detailed in those areas but not in-depth enough to show all the options available. As a result, you get the book that tells you little bit of everything, nothing seriously light or in-depth. For that, my final conclusion of this books is that 'it is a bit of a mixed bag'. 76 of 80 people found the following review helpful. Good concept, but not a thorough guide. By Casey I am a few months into this book and I have to say that I am slightly disappointed. I started off with high hopes. The book had some good tips in the introduction and the author sounded powered up about getting my financial life in shape and organized. I had a few gripes early on, but kept pushing through thinking that it would get better as it went, but it hasn't. I have found the book to be a mixture of irrelevance and surface-level information. For example, the budgeting week tells the reader to set up a budget. It explains a little bit of why a budget is important and sort of gives one example, but if the reader has never created a budget before they may not even know what categories are appropriate to budget for or how much they should be contributing to each area. Another example, one week she says to organize your office area, but she doesn't cover what is important to include in your desk or office area. As I get further into the book I am continually frustrated by the fact that the author just tells the reader to do something instead of explaining how to do something or what the best way to do it might be. After reading I usually can't even recall what I am supposed to be doing, or I have to look-up information to fill in the blanks, which is frustrating--I feel like the book should be a comprehensive guide (or at least that's what I expected it to be). Additionally, you may want to consider that you will have to make further investments to go along with the changes that the author suggests. I had to buy pouches to organize my purse, files to create a filing system, drawer organizers to organize my desk, and so on (and I didn't buy many of the items that she suggested). She even suggests buying new furniture for your office if it is not suitable. Mine is not suitable, but I am on a tight budget (the reason why I am reading books about finances) and I cannot afford to replace furniture. On the bright side, I did find the chapter about creating a filing system helpful. The author explained exactly what the reader needed and what exactly to make files for. If only all of the weeks were as detailed. The book may be helpful for someone who needs a sort of coach to tell them to do something and when. I find myself skipping through it, because when I get interested in something I want to learn everything about it, fast. (Maybe that's why I've been frustrated with the fact that it seems incomplete). 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Very well said. By John T Seems like basic information at the first glance, but I got a real picture of my finances after taking her advice and implementing her system. A year later, after reading several other financial books, I still rely on the techniques in this book for the organization of my information and documents. Some chapters and sections are boring and unnecessary, but overall this book was well my time and money.

Do you constantly feel anxious about money? Have unopened credit card statements piled up on your countertop? Are you forever losing receipts for items you meant to return? In an economic downturn taking charge of your financial well-being is more crucial than ever. One Year to an Organized Financial Life is a unique week-by-week plan to make saving money simple, automatic, and stress-free. For decades, professional organizer Regina Leeds and financial advisor Russell Wild have helped thousands of clients get their lives in order. Using Leeds's "Zen organizing" approach, which addresses the underlying causes of chaos and replaces them with routines, they now show readers the steps to improving finances within a manageable timeframe. From sticking to a budget to getting out of debt, curbing spending to maximizing retirement savings, One Year to an Organized Financial Life makes it possible for anyone to live more richly on less.

From Publishers Weekly Leeds (One Year to an Organized Life), a professional organizer, and Wild, a financial adviser, apply Leeds's Zen Organizing philosophy to replace financial mayhem with method through digestible weekly steps over the course of one year. The authors begin by guiding readers through an emotional audit of their history with money, ridding their work spaces of clutter, and organizing key financial documents. January is time to take control, and the authors provide step-by-step instructions on preparing for tax season and retooling spending habits while laying the groundwork for protecting long-term assets. Savings and retirement vehicles are discussed at an extremely macro level; but the extensive resource section compensates for the oversight. By devoting the entire month of November to getting ready for end-of-year holidays, the authors drive home how planning ahead can alleviate the pain of unforeseen expenses. This is an excellent start to creating a solid financial foundation and future.

(Jan.) Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Publishers Weekly, 11/23/09 "This is an excellent start to creating a solid financial foundation and future." Tucson Citizen, 1/8/2010 "From sticking to a budget to getting out of debt, One Year to an Organized Financial Life is essential and accessible." Atlantic City Weekly, 2/9/10 "One Year to an Organized Financial Life is the portal to a lifelong practice of money clarity and order." Boston Globe, 2/21/10 "A nuts-and-bolts guide to organizing your files, paying your bills, and cutting costs and clutter..." "Leeds' advice is simple, practical, and essential..." "Calm and empowering, this handy guide is so well thought-out that just leafing through the pages might make you feel more in control." Curled Up With a Good Book, 4/19/10 "[An] absolutely marvelous book..." "Leeds and Wild have developed a deceptively simple (and extremely easy) method for whipping your whole life into shape..." "Invest in this guide, follow the advice of Leeds and Wild, and put your money to work for you."