

the more you purge, the more room you have for great new stuff. Stuff that, in all likelihood, comes from the homes of other people who are purging their stuff!

While my decluttering was still greatly outpacing my re-cluttering, I knew that could quickly change if I didn't establish some cluttering rules, which I'm pleased to share.

**Rule 1:** Limit purchases to what you can display and/or use. Nothing goes in the attic or basement.

**Rule 2:** Don't buy anything on a whim. You should really love what you're considering or let it pass.

**Rule 3:** Run any questionable purchases by an outside counsel—in my case, my daughter. It's only fair that she gets a vote since, technically, I'm spending her inheritance. She's long accustomed to her father's eccentric buying habits, so her reaction to a potential new acquisition is usually a two-word text: "Oh no ...". It's her way of eye-rolling her approval. I love that she gets the silliness of it all, the absurdity. Re-cluttering has created a fun little experience we can share.

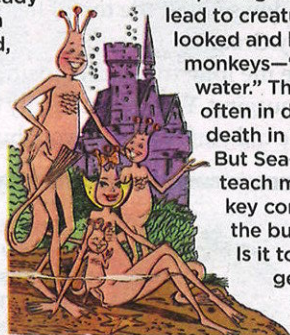
I am happy to report that life in my big old house is good. The folk art painting and weather vane arrow look great hanging in my foyer. Sister Dairy Creamer was a hilarious hit with my daughter and her friends at a barbecue, and the appearance of Turkey Elvis has become a Thanksgiving family tradition. (Thank you. Thank you very much.)

So, let Marie Kondo gush away about the life-changing magic of tidying up and decluttering. Today I'm here to champion the art of re-cluttering and all the joy it sparks.

*John Ficarra, 67, is the former editor of Mad magazine.*

**DO YOU REMEMBER ...  
Sea-Monkeys?**

I FIRST LEARNED about death and disappointment courtesy of the Amazing Live Sea-Monkeys, advertised in my favorite comic books in the late '60s and early '70s. We boomers were perfect targets, having already plunked down cash for Hula-Hoops and, of course, X-Ray Spex—which would, the ad promised, allow us to see through clothing. Even better, I thought, was the little family depicted in Sea-Monkeys ads, which would frolic—and mate!—



in my bedroom, all for about a buck plus shipping. Sea-Monkeys (which looked more like the Grinch than any monkey I'd seen) were created by marketing genius Harold von Braunhut, who sold a generation on his outrageous claims that the brine shrimp eggs he'd packaged up would lead to creatures that looked and behaved like monkeys—"Just add water." Then came, often in days, stinky death in the fishbowl. But Sea-Monkeys did teach me another key concept: Let the buyer beware. Is it too late to get my money back? —Peter Moore

**WINTER 2023!**

*Great advice to keep you cozy, healthy and active*

**WARMING UP GOES ELECTRIC**

As we age, it's harder to stay warm. But heated clothing—combining insulation with battery-powered elements—has toasty results. Here's some wired winter wear that helps chase away the shivers. —Jenny Rough



**TORSO**

Pick toppers with strategically placed heating coils, such as the Ororo Classic Heated Vest (\$180) or Heated Full-Zip Fleece Jacket (\$200). The vest was instantly snugly, and its nylon shell kept me dry on a misty walk. My husband dubbed the jacket supercomfy and praised the convenient push-button thermostat.

**HEAD AND NECK**

For frigid football tailgates, try the Gobi Heated Beanie (\$119) or ActionHeat's Heated Fleece Scarf (\$80). I loved this scarf's hand pockets and its handy USB charging kit.



**FEET**

Our home is cool, so it's been hard to remove my Gerbing 7V Heated Sock Liners (\$150), which wrap feet in temperatures up to 150 degrees. Except, that is, to slip on the sturdier Volt 3V Camp Heated Slippers (\$150) for a quick trip to the market.



**LEGS**

Look for stretchy heated pants to wear alone at home or outdoors under another layer—for instance, loose jeans or snow pants. Good examples are the Fieldsheer Mobile Warming Heated Pant (\$180), left, and Mobile Warming 7.4V Women's Ion Heated Base-layer Pant (\$160). Thin and warm!



**HANDS**

For the extra dexterity, I enjoyed ActionHeat's Slim-Fit Gloves (\$140), right. The Volt Battery Powered Heated Gloves (\$200) are waterproof. Want variety? Check out CozyWinters.com, which has nearly 40 styles.



Clockwise from top: Courtesy Ororo; Courtesy ActionHeat; Courtesy Fieldsheer; Courtesy ActionHeat; Courtesy Volt; Courtesy Sea-Monkeys