

technician also make house calls, going on the road to sell and service the machines.

"Typewriters are quick and dirty"—faster than firing up the computer, Fontanazza notes. "You can keep using them as long as you can get parts, although parts are getting scarce. And there are plenty of people who still love their IBM Selectrics." The IBMs were once the Holy Grail of typewriters—but with 4,200 moving parts, they inevitably need attention from a technician with Fontanazza's mechanical aptitude.

Still, he recognizes that the value of his skills may be lost on the younger generation. Students from a Montessori school recently visited typewriter advocate Karen Reynolds of Welcome Aboard Travel in Ridgewood. Reynolds, a 17-year customer of Fontanazza, still uses her old electric "three or four days a week." She proudly showed off the anachronistic device, but struggled to impart its merits to the class.

Thus, the shop no longer subsists on typewriters alone. These days, Ridgewood Typewriter offers a full spectrum of office equipment—everything "from paper clips to microchips," as the slogan goes.

Ridgewood Typewriter, 409 Goffle Road, Wyckoff; 201-444-4461; www.ridgetype.com

Call to order

Is your magazine rack overflowing with back issues you'll never read and catalogs you'll never open? Have you avoided hosting a holiday event for fear of having to actually sift through all the clutter you've accumulated? A personal organizer can help you restore order to your space, be it cubicle, closet or kitchen.

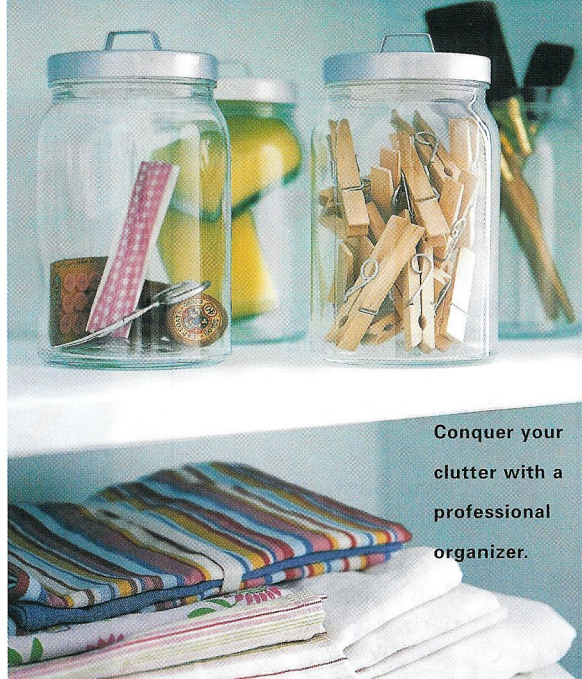
"We have an affluent society that acquires things, but doesn't get rid of them," says organizer Gayle Gruenberg of Park Ridge-based **Let's Get Organized**. As part of her service, Gruenberg will come to your home, quickly spot its danger zones, form a plan of attack and start organizing.

Fern Silvernagel of **Gifts of Order** in Fort Lee finds paper to be the biggest clutter culprit. "Paper, or simply the mail, often gets thrown in a bag, put in a closet and forgotten," she explains.

Silvernagel notes that though people call personal organizers for the same reason—disorder—solutions



**Revive old keys
at Ridgewood
Typewriter.**



**Conquer your
clutter with a
professional
organizer.**

are not one size fits all. "There's no cookie-cutter approach," she says. "You have to understand how people think and customize your work." Her strategy includes a phone assessment, walk-through and hands-on organization. There are elements of the process that clients can do themselves, such as shopping for containers, she says. "I jump-start them."

Myrna Block of Englewood used **Gifts of Order** to help organize her garage. "We cleaned and designed shelving, and used plastic containers for gardening and pool supplies," says Block. She can now use both sides of her two-car garage for what it was originally intended—cars.

But Stacey Agin Murray of **Organized Artistry** in Fair Lawn warns, "Having a container does not mean that you're organized." Thus, storage bins should be bought only after the initial walk-through. Otherwise, the containers themselves can simply become more clutter.

Murray lived in a 5-by-12-foot room from age 8 to 27, and now happily applies her space-saving knowledge to her work. "I had to learn how to make the most of that space," she explains. Along the way, she learned the psychological value of having things neat and tidy. Says Murray, "Being organized is important to make it through the day with as little stress as possible."

P.S. Fees for these personal organizers range from \$50 to \$150 an hour. The service generally takes between two and five hours.

- Let's Get Organized, Park Ridge; 201-248-5208; www.lgorganized.com
- Gifts of Order, 96 Linwood Plaza #160, Fort Lee; 201-592-1091; www.giftsoforder.com
- Organized Artistry, Fair Lawn; 201-703-8438; www.organizedartistry.com *B*