



New Year, New Money Strategy

- What benefit would financial organization provide in your life?
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Organizing/Filing System:

- Make a checklist of all bills
 - Verify inputs (deposits/income) & outputs (debits/expenses)
 - Plan to pay bills on time
 - Have a saving & checking account
 - File/retain important documents
 - Review all accounts: Where are the accounts? Who is managing the account? Is it being funded currently? If I need to make changes, who should I talk to?
 - Review all statements: Is everything correct? What fees am I paying? How is the account performing?
 - Financial Goals: Make goals based on your life vision & values. Consider what goals you want to work towards this year. When making goals, make it specific, measurable, achievable/actionable; relevant & realistic, and time bound.
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- Evaluate your cash flow. Having a plan/budget provides clarity around our numbers. To start, look at the past 2-3 months to create a working plan. Evaluate as you go through the month & adjust according to your values & priorities.



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- What are some areas in your cash flow plan that you might be able to adjust so that you can re-allocate that money to another goal?
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Evaluate your debt load & organize. Consider:

- What is the debt (ex: car loan, credit card)?
 - Total balance
 - Minimum monthly payment
 - Interest rate
 - Due date
 - What can I change (ex: interest rate, due date)?
 - Are all debts current (or are any in collections)?
 - How much can I throw at my debt (go back to cash flow plan)
 - Debt Avalanche Method: pay off debt with highest interest rate first
 - Debt Snowball Method: pay off debt with lowest balance first
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- Check your credit report. Ensure accuracy of details. Request a free report annually from the three credit bureaus (Experian, Equifax & TransUnion).

Review Insurance Policies

- Life: type of policy; benefit amount; beneficiary
- Home/rent: coverage; premium; changes (ex: property improvements)
- Auto: coverage; premium
- Health: premium; deductible/cost share; FSA, HRA or HSA
- Short/long term disability coverage
- Other insurance (ex: ID Theft, pet)



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Stash a rainy day fund:

- Emergencies are unexpected, urgent & necessary
- Prevents racking up debt

Rewards/Perks

- Are there any annual fees associated with this (ex: fees on credit cards)?
- Are there expiration dates?
- What employer benefits are available to me (ex: 401K match; wellness programs; discounts, etc)?

De-clutter Your Life/Schedule

- Live with intention & consider your commitments. "No" can free you ☺
- Pause & breathe before making decisions.
- Stop comparisons & say no to negativity & chaos.
- Consider life balance tips (taken from Take Back Your Time-The Guilt Free Guide to Life Balance by Christy Wright):
 - Decide what matters
 - Stop doing what doesn't matter
 - Create a schedule around what matters
 - Protect what matters
 - Be present for what matters
- What matters that I want to keep in my life? What does not matter & is something I can take out of my schedule?
