

Viewpoints

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FRIDAY FORUM

Material values on the wane?

By **DEBBIE DUFRESNE**
Observer-Dispatch

A recent Zogby Interactive poll of 41,175 adults shows a continuing trend of Americans choosing to live with fewer material possessions.

The poll found that 22 percent of U.S. adults have given away more than 10 percent of their belongings because they were no longer needed.

Seventeen percent said they gave things away in the past year because they have too much. Twenty-eight percent said they had given away more of their belongings in the past year than they had previously.

Pollster John Zogby said, "Even during economic hard times, we find Americans more likely to give things away. I don't believe that most are doing so in order to make room for new material objects. Instead, people are moving toward a simpler, less materialistic lifestyle. I call them Secular Spiritualists because they are

looking for more meaning in their lives, and will seek it through family, friends, volunteering and leisure activities that fulfill their needs."

The O-D asked people if they were following this trend to eschew excess material possessions. This is what they said:

"I'm not giving my stuff away," said **Clarence Davis** of Utica, "but I analyze what I buy before I buy it to see if I need it."

"I'm not giving things away," **Chuck Demma** of Utica said. "I'm probably not going out and getting things. The emphasis on material things is too strong. You can get by with a lot less ... people have too many cars, too many toys. Maybe that thinking comes with age."

"I need my stuff," **Mitchell FOST**

Foust of Utica said. "I don't have a lot of stuff to give away."

"I gave away a lot of stuff last year," **Ann Giglio** of Utica said. "Cupboards, hutches, tables and other stuff. I got rid of a lot of stuff ... cleanup for old age."

"I have five daughters scattered around — downstate and Texas — and I've gotten rid of bedding, a desk, and I'm hoping a little bit more along the way," **Maurleen Von Deilen** of Utica said. **VON DEILEN**
"The big things haven't moved out yet."

"I've got two little kids and there's an overabundance of stuff I'm trying to weed out," **Jamie DePerno** of Deerfield said. "There is too much stuff."

"I did that when I moved and

cleaned out my home," **Roberta Monroe** of Marcy said. "I have three children and they took what they wanted and I kept what I wanted."

"I do garage sales. I have one every year," **Nicole Calhoun** of Whitesboro said. "It helps: You get a little extra money in your pocket. You have to cut your costs somewhere." **CALHOUN**

"If it's something I can use daily, I'd certainly keep it," **Gus Fraccola** of Frankfort said.

"Something that'd just be lying around, I'd give it away or to somebody who can use it." **FRACCOLA**