

portland woman

Serving the women of the
Portland/Vancouver area.
Dedicated to women
everywhere.

Portland Woman

P.O. Box 13660
Portland, OR 97213
Phone: 503-287-9371
Fax: 503-331-3445

Publisher/Editor

Marie Sherlock
marie@portland-woman.com;
503-287-9371

Contributing Writers

Vanessa Nix Anthony, Michelle
Blair, Sue Campbell, Dan Buettner,
Teresa Carson, Liz Crain, Nathalie
Hardy, Anne Laufe, Savannah
Mayfield, Kris Soebroto

Account Executive

Ali King
ali@portland-woman.com;
503-331-8184; 360-694-0455

Design & Production

Susan Bard

Portland Woman is published
bi-monthly by Portland Woman
Magazine, Inc. and is distributed
free of charge throughout the
Portland, Oregon metropolitan
area. Copyright 2011 Portland
Woman Magazine, Inc. All rights
reserved. Reproduction in whole
or in part without written permis-
sion is prohibited.

Portland Woman reserves the
right to refuse advertising for any
lawful reason. Distribution of this
publication does not constitute an
endorsement of the products or
services advertised herein.

The contents of *Portland Woman*
and its Web site are for informa-
tional purposes only and are not
intended to be a substitute for
professional advice or treatment.
Although every effort is taken to
ensure the accuracy of pub-
lished material, Portland Woman
Magazine Inc. and its agents,
employees and contractors will
not be held responsible for the
use of misuse of any information
contained herein.

editor's note

In praise of imperfection

I may be going out on a limb here but I'm betting there are others among our readers who consider themselves to be closet (and living room and kitchen) slobs. Well, not exactly *slobs*, more like "casual" or even "relaxed" housekeepers. This is what I like to think of myself as. The dishes are (usually) done; the clothes are clean – though perhaps slightly wrinkled; and, in the household management category, both the cat and the kids have all of their shots. But there's a pile of library books towering near the front door; two bags full of empty bottles and cans in the nook; and a full week's worth of newspapers waiting to be recycled on a dining room chair. And that's just the beginning.

My confession here is that none of this bothers me too much. Despite what I view as nearly a societal obsession with perfection, I've somehow avoided this fixation on flawlessness, both in housekeeping and interior decorating standards (and, truthfully, a host of other areas too). It's almost a badge of honor with me that I haven't succumbed to what one friend describes as "all that domestic goddess crap."

I'm certain some might attribute my lax homemaking habits to simple laziness and there could be some truth to that. But I like to think of my approach to housekeeping (and life in general) as a reflection of my priorities. Dust bunnies may flourish in my house but so does laughter. Getting rid of that atrocious wallpaper in the bathroom never makes it to the top of my "to do" list, but I do find the time to take walks around the neighborhood. I'm not too worried about my furniture matching; I am, though, concerned about world hunger. And, in the spirit of "think globally, act locally," no guest has ever left our house hungry (and I can almost guarantee that they go home feeling pretty good about their own housekeeping skills.)

I thought of all of this today as I took a break from work – not to vacuum or mop the kitchen floor (both of which are unmistakably warranted) – but to read a book. If you should, similarly, find yourself with a spare half-hour, resist the temptation to start re-upholstering that armchair or wash the French door windows. Make yourself a cup of tea, put your feet up – and read (check out our "great read" recommendations on page 30 for ideas).

And if the in-laws show up unexpectedly and the furniture isn't polished and there are unmistakable swirls of cat hair on the couch, feel free to borrow this poem that I wrote when my kids were small (and my house *really* looked like hell) and slap it on your front door. It still works for me.

Welcome!

*I'm not much of a housekeeper
This most of you already know
But I hope to be a fair hostess
The service won't be slow*

*So don't bother taking your shoes off
There's nothing you can hurt
But you might want to check them as you leave
If you have a thing about dirt*

Marie Sherlock, Editor/Publisher
marie@portland-woman.com



ps: The staff of Portland Woman is taking the summer off (if only! We'll still be putting in long hours on our "sister" publication, Metro Parent.) The next edition of Portland Woman will be September/October, our Fall Health & Wellness edition. We promise it will be worth the wait!