



Boston

THE BEST OF BOSTON EVERY DAY

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"New Order"

By Carmen D. Nobel

NEW ORDER BY CARMEN D. NOBEL

Hectic schedules leave precious few hours for decompressing, much less sorting the mail.

Until recently, I had a job that required me to fly around the country. A lot. No matter where I went, I knew I could count on hotel concierges, those magical people who jump through hoops for their guests. But whenever I got home to an empty refrigerator and weeks' worth of laundry and utility bills, I wished I could have packed a concierge in my carryon.

Turns out, my dream wasn't so far-fetched. A handful of personal concierge businesses in Boston help harried clients complete their to-do lists for an hourly cost of \$28 to \$65 (a bargain compared with stress-induced therapy sessions). When I realized my car's inspection sticker was months overdue and that a garbage bag of old clothes in my hallway wasn't going to drive itself to Goodwill, I sought professional help.

Assisted Living

Local concierge services get the job(s) done.

Everyone knows a certain brand of Swedish furniture is nearly impossible to put together at home. Enter **Lisa's Hands of Time**, which lists "assembling items" among its many services, along with tasks like waiting in line at the DMV and, incongruously, marketing. Founder Lisa Schreider's home base is Chestnut Hill, but she and two part-time concierges serve clients in Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Newton, Wellesley, and Weston. \$55-\$65 per hour, 617-281-7606, lisashandsoftime.com.