

Moving.

The Hardest Decision

By Larry Hayes



Although my wife and I have no plans to move anytime soon, we have a lot of older friends who have moved or are seriously thinking about it.

Moving from your home, friends and community of many years is one of life's hardest decisions and it gets harder as you get older.

Some of our friends have moved to other states to live near their children and grandchildren; some to nearby retirement communities. All express how difficult it is to just "pack up and go" after decades of living in the same house and neighborhood.

"Leaving my friends behind was the hardest," says Al Blue, 81, who after 30 years in San Jose moved to San Antonio, TX to live near his daughter. "I've been having some health issues lately and my daughter wants to watch over me."

"Housing and the cost of living are a lot cheaper in San Antonio but those weren't the main reason I moved. It

was about family. But I really miss the Bay Area and my old friends."

Moving into a retirement community is easier than moving out of state but it too is a "life changing" decision not to be taken lightly.

"I loved my place, loved my garden, loved everything about my home of 40 years," said Sue, 85, who moved recently into a senior living community. "It was really, really hard to give up my home, especially the independence part. But living alone was becoming too much for me."

Note: My wife and I moved to the Bay Area 47 years ago after my graduation from Syracuse University. We had no job offers or a place to stay. Knew no one in the Bay Area but that didn't matter. Young and idealistic, we just packed up and moved. Easy decision back then.

No so in your later years. Moving is a complex, scary decision, not an impulse when you're young and fancy free!

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